

Red Cross ready for detainee swap

BEIRUT (AP) — An International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) official said Tuesday the organisation was willing to mediate with Lebanese groups and Israel for a swap of detainees that might also free Western hostages. "I can say of course we are prepared to play this role whenever we are approached," said the ICRC's chief delegate in Lebanon, Arthur Bisig. Lebanon's highest Shiite Muslim official, Sheikh Mohammed Mehdi Shamseddin, Monday proposed trading the bodies of Israeli servicemen for Lebanese held by Israel. Such a swap should be mediated by the ICRC and "I am positive it would bring about the release of the Western hostages," said Sheikh Shamseddin, head of the Higher Shiite Muslim Council in Lebanon. "If we are approached by one of the parties involved or several parties, of course we are ready to act as a neutral intermediary," said Mr. Bisig, interviewed in his Beirut office. Israel had earlier offered to trade the estimated 300 Lebanese it holds in Lebanon for the seven Israeli servicemen missing in Lebanon since 1982 and the Western hostages. But that offer, like most others in recent years, failed to produce a deal.

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Masri heads for Cairo meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Foreign Minister Taher Masri Tuesday left for Cairo to head the Jordanian delegation to the 95th session of the Arab League Council, which will be held there Wednesday at the foreign ministers level. The meeting will be dedicated to electing a new Arab League secretary general and discussion on political and international issues as well as the future of joint Arab action. The council is expected to elect Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid, the only candidate for the post, as the Arab League's secretary general to succeed Chadi Klubi, who resigned in September 1990.

Nathan in hospital

TEL AVIV (AP) — Peace crusader Abie Nathan was rushed to the hospital Tuesday after his doctor diagnosed an irregular heartbeat during his hunger strike for the right to talk with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). He was released a short time later from Beilinson Hospital near Tel Aviv after his pulse was found to be normal and he refused an infusion of fluids, said Dan Oppenheimer, a hospital official. Mr. Nathan, 64, also refused doctors' appeals to end his 17-day-old fast. Mr. Oppenheimer said, Mr. Nathan is protesting against a law barring Israelis from making contact with the PLO. He served 122 days in prison in 1989 for meeting with PLO leader Yasser Arafat.

Bush to nominate Gates as CIA head

WASHINGTON (AP) — President George Bush said Tuesday he would nominate Deputy National Security Adviser Robert M. Gates to succeed William Webster as head of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). It is the second time Mr. Gates has been nominated to head the agency. He was chosen for the post by former President Ronald Reagan in 1987, but the White House withdrew the nomination in the face of congressional doubts over Mr. Gates' role in the Iran-contra affair. "I know Bob Gates and I know him to be a man of honour," Mr. Bush said. He said the nomination demonstrates that he has "no qualms at all" about Mr. Gates and no concerns about opening up the Iran-contra period to a new session of congressional review. Mr. Gates said, "I confirmed I look forward to doing my best to more fully develop what is already the best intelligence service in the world."

Seven Kurdish guerrillas killed

KAHRAMANMARAS, Turkey (AP) — Security forces on Tuesday killed seven Kurdish separatist guerrillas in a clash near this southeastern province, the semi-official Anadolu news agency reported. The incident occurred after security forces, launching an operation in pursuit of the Kurdish insurgents in the region, encountered a group of guerrillas near the Engizik area, the dispatch said. The guerrillas refused to surrender and opened fire, Anadolu said. In the ensuing firefight seven were killed while one was captured alive, it added. Kurdish guerrillas have been fighting to set up an independent Kurdistan in southeastern Turkey since 1984.

U.S. gives Iraq clearance for spraying

ANKARA (R) — The United States has given Iraq clearance to use helicopters to spray crops north of the 36th parallel and Polish-built MI-23s were expected to start work in northern Iraq Tuesday, U.S. President George Bush banned all Iraqi civil and military flights north of the line, which runs south of the major city of Mosul, after Iraqi troops crushed Kurdish and Shiite Muslim unrest in March. Iraq requested an exemption for the crop-sprayers through a U.S.-Iraqi military coordination centre in the northern Iraqi border town of Zakho and allied officials went to Mosul on Monday to inspect the helicopters before approving it.

King, Baker cover substantial ground in talks on peace efforts

Chance for peace exists, may never come again — King
U.S. secretary reports all-party agreement to attend superpower-sponsored conference to implement 242, 338

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday held talks with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker on Middle East peace efforts, and both men later indicated that substantive ground was covered during their discussions. The King, addressing reporters at a brief press conference at the Royal Palace following the talks — which came amid signs that the American-led peace initiative was faltering — said that a chance for resolving the Middle East's problems existed, but warned that it "will probably never come again."

Standing beside the King, Mr. Baker struck an optimistic note and reported for the first time that there was basic agreement among all parties to attend a peace conference but that snags remained to be cleared.

Settlers set up new post ahead of Baker visit
OCCUPIED WEST BANK (R) — Jewish settlers set up 30 mobile homes at a new site in the occupied West Bank on Tuesday hours before U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's arrival on a fourth Middle East peace mission. Workers busily added finishing touches to the site, about 500 metres across the road from the settlement of Givon Habadasha, which is 10 kilometres southwest of occupied Jerusalem.

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"It is my understanding that all of the parties with whom we have had discussions have essentially agreed to attend a conference sponsored by the United States and the Soviet Union for direct negotiations between Israel and the states neighbouring Israel and for direct negotiations between Israel and Palestinians," he said. And, he also confirmed, for the first time, that there was also agreement that the purpose of the negotiations would be "achieving a comprehensive settlement based on (United Nations Security Council) resolutions 242 and 338."

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same time, it was not immediately clear Tuesday how Mr. Baker hoped to tackle the Israeli position that the Jewish state has already implemented the resolutions when it made peace with Egypt and relinquished Egyptian territory in line with the Camp David peace accords. In his comments Tuesday, the King reaffirmed Jordan's commitment to a peaceful solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. "I believe we share a total commitment to the cause of peace in this region that is long overdue," he told the press conference. "I believe that this chance that now exists for a peace process to start... will probably never come again," the King said.

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ahead of Mr. Baker's visit to Amman. Syria says the United Nations should play a role in conducting any peace conference. Israel has rejected a role for the world body. Syria also wants assurances that conference participants would convene regularly to check on progress. But Israeli leaders want to hold a one-time international gathering, prior to bilateral talks. U.S. officials have hinted they might try to convene talks without Syria. When asked whether he would refuse to attend a peace conference if Syria were not represented, King Hussein replied, "I haven't said that."

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His Majesty King Hussein answers reporters' questions at a brief press conference held after talks with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker (left). To the King's (right) are his Political Advisor Adnan Abu Odeh, the American ambassador to Jordan, Roger Harrison, and Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker (photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

Palestinians seek Baker's help to stop expulsions

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The families of four Palestinians appealed to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker to stop Israel from expelling them from the occupied Gaza Strip. Mr. Baker, whose government has condemned previous expulsions, headed for Israel Tuesday from Jordan on a fourth Middle East peace mission. He planned to meet three Palestinian representatives in occupied Jerusalem. In a letter to Mr. Baker sent through the U.S. consulate in Jerusalem, the Palestinian families said they looked to him after the Israeli supreme court upheld army orders to expel their sons. "We turn to you, in our final hours of desperation, to put our pleas to the Israeli government to cancel the deportation orders against our sons and husbands as a gesture of goodwill in the framework of the peace process which you are working so hard to achieve," the families wrote.

Bush to discuss Gorbachev presence at G-7 summit
WASHINGTON (AP) — President George Bush said Tuesday he would discuss with other world leaders a Soviet suggestion that President Mikhail Gorbachev be invited to observe the annual economic summit of industrialised democracies in July.

Death of 13-year-old raises questions over blood bank
AMMAN — The tragic death of a 13-year-old boy on Saturday, which may have been due to lack of speedy supply of blood, has highlighted the controversy over a Ministry of Health practice limiting storage of blood supplies to only military government- and army-run medical centres. The practice, which has been in effect since 1980, has been drawing increased criticism from some private hospitals, like the one where the boy was initially treated before being transferred to Al Hussein Medical Centre, and from other doctors and concerned citizens. Under the practice, most private hospitals in Jordan are not allowed to have their own blood banks, because they are either not qualified or cannot afford to store blood units on their premises. In emergency cases, when blood is vital to save the patient's life, relatives of the patient or a hospital ambulance are sent to the blood bank in Ashrafyah to get blood. The blood is immediately given after it is scanned for diseases, and matched with the blood type of the recipient, a procedure which usually takes half an hour. The question that the death of 13-year-old Nidal Khouri raised is whether such a system is effective in saving the lives of patients who are in dire need of immediate blood transfusion, or whether there is a compelling need of reviewing the blood bank system in Jordan by either allowing private hospitals to have their own blood banks, or opening other regional blood banks in Jordan. While it has not been established that the boy died as a direct cause of the immediate non-availability of blood, doctors believe that the boy's life could have been saved if blood was readily available. Dr. Sami Khouri, director of Palestine Hospital, agrees that one blood bank is not enough. Although Dr. Khouri agrees that the centralisation of the blood bank is good, he said that the private sector should contribute in establishing other blood banks. "In emergency cases, private hospitals can do pretty well. I am sure we could be able to do the same thing (that the Ashrafyah blood bank is doing)," Dr. Khouri told the Jordan Times. "If they (private hospitals) open blood banks with the right care, things can be a lot better," he added. Furthermore, Dr. Khouri said that he believes that the Ministry of Health should play a key role in opening a new blood bank in west Amman, but in the "interim period" private hospitals should be allowed to have their own private blood supplies. Dr. Abdul Rahim Malhas, a general surgeon at Malhas Hospital, expressed reservations about opening a new blood bank saying that "it might not be cost effective," yet did not totally dismiss the idea. "It is not a bad idea (to open a new blood bank), provided it is run by the government, open 24 hours, supervised and treated the same as the Ashrafyah bank, and as full (of blood supplies) as the other bank," he said. Dr. Malhas also said that in his 15 years of practice at Malhas Hospital not a single patient had died from lack of blood, even in emergency cases. He explained that the patient's initial situation is the determining factor of whether or not he or she lives or dies. Contrary to Dr. Malhas's insistence that the new blood bank be controlled and supervised by the government, a former health official, who preferred not to be named, said that opening a new bank should fall on the shoulders of the private sector, since it is widely agreed upon that the existing blood bank is doing an "excellent job" on its own. Hospitals that have private blood banks in Jordan are the following: The Jordan University Hospital, the Islamic Hospital, Queen Alia Hospital, Al Bashir Hospital, the Red Crescent Hospital, and the King Hussein Medical Centre.

Levy hints Israel may accept full EC role

BRUSSELS (Agencies) — Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy, after a meeting with his European Community (EC) counterparts, hinted he may recommend to his government the EC play a full role in a Mideast peace conference. The EC wants to co-sponsor such a conference with the United States and the Soviet Union. To date Israel, wary of pro-Arab sentiments in Europe, has suggested the EC be an "observer." Mr. Levy did not repeat that to reporters. Nor did he commit himself to full participant status for the EC. At a news conference, he said, "I am optimistic," at one point adding, "let me advise you to be an optimist as well."

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Israel relentlessly tightens grip on occupied territories

By Jack Redden
Reuters

EFRAAT, West Bank — Across the ancient landscape, Israeli settlements stretch into the distant haze. A new road to speed Jews to jobs in Jerusalem slices through long-cultivated Palestinian terraces.

Inside the Jewish settlement of Efrat, mobile homes are lined up to receive newly arrived Soviet Jews and bulldozers are preparing the ground for another neighbourhood in a town that will eventually stretch five kilometres across the occupied West Bank.

"We're here to stay," said Boh Lang, a spokesman for the settlers who have now established 150 communities ranging from a handful of trailers to the town of Maale Adumin with more than 12,000 Israelis.

That message has been reinforced by an explosion of Israeli construction in the occupied territories since the current government of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir took office last June.

Although Israel promised the United States only last year that it would not direct Soviet immigrants to the occupied territories, Mr. Lang said 35 of the 50 mobile homes just installed in Efrat are reserved for Soviet immigrants.

U.S. complaints that settlements are an obstacle to Israeli-Arab peace have been answered with pledges to move more Jews into the area. Mr. Shamir has met Washington's call for Israel to trade occupied land for peace with its Arab neighbours by vowing never to surrender a centimetre.

Settlements matter least on the sparsely-populated Golan Heights, where some 12,000 Israelis now live among the 18,000 Druze.

But the Israeli population among the million Palestinians in the occupied West Bank, is now approaching 100,000 — a figure

settlers once described as the point-of-no-return. Some 2,500 more live among the 750,000 Palestinians of the Gaza Strip.

That does not include the 120,000 Israelis who have been settled in Ashdod, Jerusalem to encircle the 150,000 Arabs in the city.

Mr. Lang, a settler since arriving from New York 11 years ago at the age of 21, said the Jewish population in the occupied territories had risen up to 18 per cent a year during the Palestinian revolt, which began in 1987 at least partly to halt the creeping annexation. He now expects at least a 20 per cent annual growth rate.

"A generation has grown up without knowing the pre-'67 border. You cannot even find a map that shows it," said Mr. Lang. "In the last five to seven years it's gone from Gush Emunim (an ultra-nationalist settlement movement) to all of Israel that's moving to Judea and Samaria."

The Housing Ministry headed by hardliner Ariel Sharon, the architect of Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon, has already announced plans to build 13,000 additional housing units in the occupied territories.

A ministry spokesman said bluntly: "The policy of the government is that there was building, there is building and there will be building. That's what this government believes in."

Most of the world, including the United States, shares the Palestinian view that settlements break the Geneva conventions, which prohibit moving new population into land occupied in war.

"It is prohibited, setting up settlements is a violation of international law," said Khaled Batrawi of Al Haq, a Palestinian legal organisation monitoring the Israeli occupation. "We cannot accept at all de facto these settlements."

However, even some Palesti-

nian leaders admit privately it may already be too late to reverse the Israeli takeover, that the Jewish state's policy of creating "facts" on the ground has succeeded.

The current boom in housing was preceded by years of investment in infrastructure designed to inextricably link the occupied territories with Israel.

Electricity, water and telephone systems are all integrated with those in Israel. Modern roads, built to deliberately bypass Palestinian centres, connect the settlements to Israel without signs to show the 1967 "green line". Even the main Tel Aviv-Jerusalem highway cuts briefly through the West Bank.

"You think Israelis are spending billions of dollars on infrastructure just to waste the money or give it to us?" said Bethlehem's veteran Mayor Elias Freij, who has warned of the settlements for years.

Fortress-like Israeli buildings of stone and concrete expand relentlessly towards his increasingly impoverished town at the edge of Jerusalem.

The sole example of Israel abandoning settlements and returning occupied land came in a 1979 treaty with Egypt, its only peace agreement ever with an Arab country. During the final stage of that handover in 1982, Israeli troops had to forcibly remove those opposed to leaving the town of Yamit.

Last month, on the ninth anniversary of the final withdrawal, former settlers gathered in the Gaza Strip within site of Yamit to condemn the treaty.

A settlement leader, Avi Farhan, told them: "The people of Israel have learned the significance of the evacuation of Yamit, which led to the formula of territories for peace and to the transfer of Jews."

The surging population of current settlers believes it will not happen again.

Palestinian journalist freed from prison

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Palestinian journalist Ziad Abu Ziad has been freed from an Israeli prison after serving six months of "administrative detention" for alleged leadership of the Palestinian uprising.

Mr. Abu Ziad, editor of an Arab weekly published in Hebrew, said he was released on Sunday and immediately returned to his home in Biblical Bethany east of Jerusalem.

He was one of the half-dozen leading Palestinian figures jailed by Israel over the past six months for anti-Israeli activities stemming from the 41-month uprising against Israeli occupation.

Most were held under "administrative detention" rules that allow the jailing of a suspect without charge or trial.

The arrests were criticised by Western diplomats and human rights groups because most of those arrested were moderates seen as potential Arab peace negotiators.

Mr. Abu Ziad said he has been summoned to the "civil administration" later this week where he believes he will be given a green identity card which bans holders from entering Israel and occupied Arab Jerusalem.

He said his time in jail and the talks he held with other Palestinian prisoners made him reconsider many things.

"I think this is the first time since 1967 that there is a serious effort to achieve a political settlement," Mr. Abu Ziad said in a telephone call. "If these efforts fail we will have to wait a long, long time to see another."

Mr. Abu Ziad said he did not believe another meeting between Palestinians and Secretary of State James Baker, expected in Israel Tuesday on his fourth peace shuttle to the region, was necessary since the message they had given him was very clear.

"We want to see an end to this occupation and feel free and live in peace and dignity," he said. "The Palestinians should be flexible and not say no and do whatever they can to find a solution now."

Also Monday, the families of four Palestinian refugees ordered expelled from the occupied Gaza Strip have appealed to Baker to push the Israelis to cancel the orders.

The supreme court on Sunday rejected appeals by the four removing the final barrier halting their expulsions. The four Gazans were ordered expelled for allegedly inciting violence and being senior members of the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Iran reports contract to control Kuwaiti wells

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran announced Monday that it will send a 50-person team to Kuwait to join North American firefighters trying to control wells sabotaged during Iraq's occupation of the emirate. State-run Tehran Radio quoted Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh as saying a six-month deal had been signed between the national Iranian and Kuwaiti oil companies. "We think we will soon start our operations beside and in competition with the big international companies and this is an honour for us and increases the credibility of our oil industry," Mr. Aqazadeh said. Three U.S. firms and one Canadian company have been the only companies working to control the 630 wells. So far, they have capped almost 600 of the wells, which were burning or spewing oil — a pace that has frustrated Kuwaitis watching millions of dollars go up in smoke each day.

Iraq complains to U.N. about Major's speech

NICOSIA (R) — Iraq has written to the United Nations to complain about a speech in which British Prime Minister John Major said Britain wanted U.N. sanctions against Iraq to stay as long as Saddam Hussein was in power.

Foreign Minister Ahmad Hussein Khudayer told the U.N. Security Council president that Major's remarks were "sinister," "impudent" and "ridiculous," Baghdad Radio said Tuesday.

"At a time when Iraq honestly honours its obligations as stipulated in the U.N. Security Council resolutions which it accepted, we, amazingly, continue to hear statements that are not in harmony with the content of these resolutions," he said.

"Among these statements are the sinister and impudent statements made by British Prime Minister John Major," it added.

In his speech to a ruling Conservative Party conference in Perth, Scotland, on Friday, Mr. Major said, "Britain will veto any U.N. resolution designed to weaken the sanctions regime we have set in place, for so long as Saddam Hussein remains in power."

The United Nations banned trade with Iraq and froze Iraqi assets last August after Iraq invaded Kuwait. The sanctions remain in force despite the Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait.

Iraqi Information Minister Hamid Yousef Hummadi responded on Saturday, saying Mr. Major was "pursuing a vendetta" and that hopes that the Iraqi president would go were wishful thinking.

Mr. Khudayer's letter to the United Nations said Mr. Major's speech brought back memories of British imperialism in Iraq.

"We, the Iraqis, have a long history with British colonial rule, which oppressed our people for many long years, exploited our people's resources, and attempted to control our destiny."

"Now the British prime minister... shows a desire to choose for

the Iraqi people a leader other than President Saddam Hussein. This is the right of the Iraqi people. It is not the right of the British ruler, who should have shown some shame before making these ridiculous statements," it said.

The ruling Iraqi Baath Party newspaper Al Thawra Tuesday called for an end to the sanctions, saying this would solve all the country's problems including that of Kurdish refugees.

British, U.S. and other Western troops have moved into northern Iraq to protect hundreds of thousands of Kurdish refugees as they return from camps on the Iraqi-Turkish border.

Al Thawra appealed to the international community to "condemn and deplore foreign military presence in northern Iraq and the accompanying insolent threats of maintaining sanctions against its people."

Canada to sell wheat to Iraq — Iraq said Monday it had signed an agreement with Canada to buy 500,000 tonnes of wheat.

The Iraqi News Agency said the deal provided for the wheat to be delivered between June 1 and Dec. 31. It gave no further details.

No independent confirmation of the report was immediately available.

Baghdad said last week it had signed deals for the purchase of one million tonnes of Australian wheat and 200,000 tonnes of rice from Thailand.

An Australian wheat board spokesman in Sydney said on May 6 that no deal had been concluded but confirmed that talks about a possible sale had taken place. But the Iraqi government produced a signed agreement with the Australians.

INa said Iraqi Prime Minister Saadoun Hammadi told parliament Monday it appeared the Western allies were seeking to maintain the trade sanctions "in the hope of achieving the objectives they failed to realise during the (Gulf) war."

S. Arabia slams media 'speculation' on Egypt

RIYADH (Agencies) — Saudi Arabia Monday praised the role of Arab troops in the Gulf war and denounced news media "speculation" about why Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak ordered his men withdrawn last week.

The kingdom's cabinet reviewed the media reports during its regular weekly meeting, said acting Information Minister Ibrahim Massoud.

The cabinet "expressed its deep appreciation and profound gratitude for the pioneering role of the Egyptian, Syrian and Moroccan forces in supporting the Saudi forces to deter aggression," Mr. Massoud said.

The cited the "strong personal relationship" that bound King Fahd with Mr. Mubarak and an equally strong bond between the Saudi and Egyptian peoples.

"The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will not hesitate to call on its sister the Arab Republic of Egypt to support it if it needs to," Mr. Massoud added.

He said the cabinet "affirms the falsehood of that speculation and those wrong interpretations into which the media delved, pointed out that those forces came only at the request of Saudi Arabia and are now returning after performing their mission in the best manner."

Mr. Massoud did not specify the media reports.

On Saturday, the Associated Press reported that Saudi officials indicated they do not want foreign troops, even fellow Arabs,

stationed in the Kingdom.

It reported that the Saudis felt the Egyptians and other Arab troops had done a "great job" during the war but that they did not want a permanent non-Saudi military presence on their soil.

That view, coupled with Mr. Mubarak's decision to pull out his 36,000 troops from Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, has cast doubt over the hoped-for new regional security arrangements for the Gulf.

The Gulf states and their western allies had foreseen a new regional security system anchored by 60,000 Egyptian and Syrian troops, with American troops rapidly available to reinforce them in an emergency.

The plan was formalised March 6 in Damascus between the six Gulf Cooperation Council states — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain and Oman — with Egypt and Syria, their main Arab allies in the anti-Iraq coalition.

But Saudi officials and diplomats in Riyadh, speaking on condition of anonymity, said there is now no question of stationing even Arab troops in the kingdom on a permanent basis.

Egyptian military sources said Mr. Mubarak's decision to withdraw his troops from Kuwait was based on evidence that his troops were distinctly unwelcome there.

There were no such reports from Saudi Arabia, where Egyptian troops have been viewed with pride and showered with thanks and decorations.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Ethiopia says famine affects 7.3m

WASHINGTON (R) — Ethiopia has issued an emergency appeal for more international food aid, warning that drought, civil war and refugees from neighbouring countries have combined to threaten 7.3 million people with starvation. The head of the Ethiopian Relief and Rehabilitation Commission, Yilma Kassaye, said his country's crisis has been largely overlooked because of the demands of competing emergencies, including those in Iraq and Bangladesh. "Our problem has been either ignored or forgotten," Mr. Kassaye said in a telephone interview from Addis Ababa. The number of people in need, he said, "is swelling by the day." He stressed the importance of obtaining additional food shipments as soon as possible. "The problem is now," he said. "It will be of no help if we get assistance toward the end of the year." He said existing food shortages have been aggravated by the arrival in Ethiopia of an estimated one million refugees from Somalia and another 400,000 from the Sudan. In addition, he said 300,000 Ethiopians who had fled elsewhere have returned to their homeland in recent months, he said. U.S. officials were not available for immediate comment. Official estimates, however, indicate that the U.S. government's assessment of the extent of the famine problem in Ethiopia is roughly the same as Mr. Kassaye's.

Iraq frees U.S. reporter

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq Tuesday freed an American journalist and his Kuwaiti interpreter arrested in the demilitarised zone on the Kuwait-Iraq border, the Information Ministry said. Associated Press reporter Mark Fritz and translator Salah Zamani were free to leave Iraq, a ministry spokesman said. The two men were detained on Sunday for entering Iraq illegally. They were taken from the Iraqi border town of Safwan to the southeastern city of Basra, outside the demilitarised zone. The zone extends 10 km into Iraq and five km into Kuwait along 200-km border. It is monitored by a 1,440-strong U.N. observation force. The Kuwaiti and Iraqi governments handle all civilian administration, including policing. Three technicians from the American CBS network were held by Iraq for four days after being detained by Iraqi police in the Safwan area on May 4.

Ozal cancels trip, averts protests

ALBANY, New York (AP) — Turkish President Turgut Ozal has cancelled a trip to the United States, averting a threatened protest of his planned commencement address at the State University of New York at Albany, campus officials said. Mr. Ozal was slated to deliver the keynote address and receive an honorary degree at the university's graduation on May 26. But the Turkish embassy has informed Albany state that Mr. Ozal will not make the six-day trip to the United States that included his Albany visit, university officials said. Students, faculty and local residents — many of them with ties to ethnic groups that have longstanding disputes with Turkey — had objected strongly to Mr. Ozal's appearance. They said the Turkish government is responsible for human rights abuses against opposition groups and ethnic minorities in Turkey such as the Greeks, Armenians and Cypriots. About 100 people staged a protest against Mr. Ozal's visit Wednesday outside Albany state's administration building and another demonstration was slated for the graduation ceremony. The university's student council also has asked administration officials to rescind Mr. Ozal's invitation.

Iranian fishermen cash in on pollution

KUWAIT (R) — Iranian fishermen are cashing in on Gulf war pollution, running through minefields to unload their catches in Kuwait. "Before the (Iraqi) occupation we used to fish in Iran and sell part there and part here. Now I am selling everything here," said Khafir Sayed Shihab from the Iranian village of Janawah, as his 10-man crew unloaded their catch. The Iranians sail across the Gulf only during the day so they can dodge the mines still floating in Kuwaiti waters 10 weeks after the end of the war. "We are forced to. We have to make some money," Mr. Shihab said. The sea around the emirate is polluted by oil spilt from Kuwaiti and Iraqi oil installations and tankers damaged during the war. The Iranians have established a near-monopoly of the fish market.

Kuwaiti opposition says 5 members held

KUWAIT (R) — A Kuwaiti opposition group said Tuesday police had arrested five of its members. The Muslim fundamentalist Islamic Constitutional Movement (ICM) said the arrests were believed to be the first of their kind since U.S.-led allied forces ended Iraq's occupation of the emirate in February. The five were detained at Kuwait airport on Saturday. They were putting up ICM posters with slogans welcoming home Kuwaitis who fled after the Iraqi invasion last Aug. 2. The ICM named the five in a statement as Bader Al Fodalah, Khalaf Al Najjar, Salim Al Ajmi, Imad Al Roshod and Yahya Al Hamadi. It said they were between 20 and 30 years old and "well known for their activities in helping the people during and after the (Iraqi) occupation." Kuwaitis detained hundreds of people, most of them Palestinians, after the war on charges of collaborating with the Iraqis. Kuwait's acting Attorney-General Hamad Al Othman said on Monday more than 200 people would stand trial soon on collaboration charges. The ICM said opposition groups would issue a joint statement soon on human rights in Kuwait. There have been independent reports of human rights abuses in Kuwait, including torture and killings. Kuwaiti officials say they stopped several weeks ago. Palestinians, relief workers and diplomats say they are still going on.

Velayati off to Australia, New Zealand

NICOSIA (AP) — Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati left for Australia and New Zealand on Tuesday to promote bilateral relations, the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported. It said en route to Canberra, he will stop over in Malaysia. After Australia he will fly to New Zealand, it said. IRNA said Mr. Velayati was returning visits to his country by officials of the two countries. In addition to bilateral ties, he will discuss in Australia its "active role" in seeking chemical disarmament.

Peres pledges support for Shamir against hardliners

TEL AVIV (AP) — Labour Party leader Shimon Peres pledged Tuesday to support the government on Middle East peace moves to prevent cabinet hardliners from foiling attempts to convene an Arab-Israeli peace conference.

Mr. Peres spoke after a meeting with Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir hours before U.S. Secretary of State James Baker was to arrive on the latest leg of his peace shuttle mission.

Mr. Baker was to meet Palestinian leaders Tuesday night and on Wednesday and Thursday holds discussions with Mr. Shamir, Defence Minister Moshe Arens and Foreign Minister David Levy.

Mr. Peres was pessimistic about whether Mr. Shamir would be more flexible on the disagreements delaying peace talks. Israel objects to two demands by Syria: That a peace conference meet more than once and that the United Nations have a role. Israel wants one meeting leading to direct talks with each Arab state and opposes any U.N. participation.

Also at issue is whether the Palestinians would come independently or as part of a joint delegation with Jordan.

"I doubt very much if there will be a breakthrough" when Mr. Baker visits, Mr. Peres told Israeli Radio after his 30-minute meeting with Mr. Shamir. "I am definitely sceptical."

But Mr. Peres added he would support Mr. Shamir, if he needed Labour's votes to be able to attend a peace conference.



Shimon Peres

Neither leader proposed forging another joint governing coalition. The last Labour-Likud alliance fell in March 1990 when Labour bolted over differences about American peace proposals.

Mr. Peres said, however, that "if there is a peace process we will support it. The issue isn't which government, but which policy. He will support this (peace) move whether from inside or outside."

Labour backing would prevent Mr. Shamir's cabinet from falling to a motion of no confidence if ultra-nationalist parties carried out threats to leave the government.

Mr. Peres also said Israel needed progress in peace efforts to obtain American loan guarantees for absorbing an influx of Soviet immigrants. More than 250,000 have immigrated since

mid-1989 and at least 600,000 more are expected by the end of the year.

"If this (peace effort), fails, we will get ourselves into a big problem about absorbing the immigrants," Mr. Peres said.

Mr. Peres said he briefed Mr. Shamir on his talks last month in Washington with President George Bush, in which Mr. Bush stressed he was anxious to see a settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The Labour Party leader took issue with Mr. Bush and Mr. Baker's strategy of trying to involve Syria in negotiations. "I think the Syrians shouldn't even have been invited," to a peace conference, said Mr. Peres.

Syria "is the most extreme element in the Arab World" and would drive the hardest bargain for a resolution of the Palestinian issue, he added.

Mr. Peres also asserted that many in Israel object to relinquishing the Golan Heights which Israel captured from Syria in the 1967 war and later "annexed."

"If we don't want to negotiate the Golan Heights, why invite the Syrians to talks? to ask (President Hafez Al) Assad to give up the Golan Heights," Mr. Peres said.

Mr. Peres contended Israel's main problem was the Palestinian issue in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, and that Gaza, with its 750,000 Palestinians, is a particular burden.

"We must get rid of it as soon as possible," he said. "We have to decide, would we rather absorb a million immigrants or take care of a million in Gaza."

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel. 77311-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:00	Children's programme
18:30	Documentary
19:00	News in French
19:15	French varieties
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	After Henry
21:10	Our House
22:00	News in English
22:30	Behaving Badly
PRAYER TIMES	
04:05	Fajr
05:34	(Sunrise) Dhuhr
12:32	Dhuhr
16:12	'Asr
19:30	Maghreb
20:28	Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swetich, Tel. 810740	
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 637785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terrence Church Tel. 622366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 625411	
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Alanna International Church Tel. 685226	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 615817, 654922	
Church of the Nazareth Tel. 675691	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
It will be relatively hot and partly cloudy, and there will be a chance for local scattered showers of rain. A gradual drop in temperature will take place as of Wednesday evening. Winds will be westerly moderate. In Aqaba, it will be hot and dusty with southerly light winds and sea wavy.	

Min./Max. temp.		IRBID:	Complaints	787111
Amman	21 / 33	Dr. Lawrence Bader	(—)	
Aqaba	21 / 42	Al Sharaa' pharmacy	(273625)	
Deserts	20 / 35	ZARQA:		
Jordan Valley	24 / 38	Dr. Yousef Fadel	(—)	
		Khalifeh pharmacy	985417	
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 32, Aqaba 42. Humidity readings: Amman 35 per cent, Aqaba 18 per cent.				
USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS				
NIGHT DUTY				
AMMAN:				
Dr. Farouq Hussein	786680	Food Control Centre	637111	
Dr. Bahjat Bader	849362	Civil Defence Department	661111	
Dr. Zein Zaghloul	638591	Civil Defence Immediate	630341	
Dr. Abdul Rahman Jaber	778592	Rescue	630341	
Firas Pharmacy	661912	Civil Defence Emergency	199	
Ferdows pharmacy	778336	Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637777	
Al Asma pharmacy	637055	Fire Brigade	891228	
Nahrain pharmacy	625672	Blood Bank	775121	
Al Salam pharmacy	636730	Highway Police	843402	
Yacoub pharmacy	644945	Traffic Police	896390	
Shameisi pharmacy	637660	Public Security Department	630221	
		Hotel Complaints	605800	
		Price Complaints	661176	
		Water and Sewerage	(—)	
		Complaints	897467	
		Amman Municipality	(—)	
EMERGENCIES				

40% of 160 child deaths in Gaza was
due to Israeli interference in health care

MAP expands aid to Palestinians as health situation deteriorates

By Nur Sati
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Shortly after the intifada broke out in 1987, Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP) began what was later to be extensive medical work in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. For the thousands of inhabitants that lived the misery of extreme suppressive conditions, the Gulf war has been the last straw.

"The people, particularly the Gaza residents, are finding themselves more and more in need, as economic pressure gives way to poverty and ill-health," Dr. Pauline Cutting, a trauma surgeon in Al Ahli Hospital-Gaza pointed out.

There are widespread diseases amongst the Palestinians and malnutrition is evident especially among children. From surveys that have been conducted, Dr. Cutting said, "diseases are mixed." There are many who have Third World diseases such as diarrhoea, parasites, tuberculosis, and water borne diseases. At the same time they also suffer from western type diseases like diabetes, hypertension and heart attacks, she explained.

Though these types of illnesses are curable, "health services are a great problem," Dr. Cutting maintained. "There is no authority on health services." The Israelis claim to be the authority "but they (Israelis) do not fund the clinics and hospitals adequately and interfere with others that exist," the surgeon, who worked in Gaza for six months, affirmed.

Many specialists who also worked in the occupied territories agree. "Israelis do provide some health services, but it is patchy

and they have to be paid for by the Palestinians themselves."

Some are covered by UNRWA, Dr. Cutting said. Some have insurance, "but it is still far too expensive for the Palestinians and most of them cannot afford health treatments," she added.

During the last three years, the number of injuries and deaths that have occurred surpasses 100,000. "All these include the temporary and permanent disabled or injured," Dr. Cutting told the Jordan Times.

MAP's work in the occupied territories consists of rendering medical care to the thousands under occupation. When MAP began in 1988 it only provided emergency assistance, but soon enough, as the need arose, MAP expanded into four levels of help, Dr. Cutting recalled. The first level contained hardware, such as medical equipment and special units, like an intensive care unit. In Hebron, for example, "we have a neonatal intensive care," Dr. Cutting said.

In conjunction with the hardware aid, "we provided specialised personnel and foreign volunteers and asked Palestinian health care institutions to tell us what the victims needed," she explained. Among the foreign volunteers there were specialists in intensive care, pediatrics, neurosurgeons, plastic surgeons, radiologists and nurses, she said.

"Although there were enough physiotherapists when the intifada began, the beating by the Israelis, the crushing of bones and countless other incidences produced thousands of disabled and injured," Dr. Cutting reminded. "We just did not have enough services to deal with the situation."

According to Dr. Cutting, as the number of injured increased, MAP tried to spread the clinics to areas where there were very little or no health services, like Hebron and Tulkerem.

MAP also tried to expand first aid services. "Our goal was to have health care in all villages. Although they were supposed to be available, 'Israeli authorities claimed they were illegal,' Dr. Cutting said. "So, there were people who were not being provided with any health services at all. But again the Israelis would claim otherwise," she added.

So far around 52 current and planned projects exist since MAP was established in the occupied territories. There are also 14 mobile clinics in villages which would otherwise have no health services, Dr. Cutting affirmed. "More is needed. Much more," the surgeon said. "The Gulf crisis was felt very acutely in Gaza."

"They (Gazans) could not collect or deliver food, pick fruits or sell them. They were confined to houses. Many of the Palestinians relied on working in Israel so they lost their jobs. Many had families in Kuwait. Because of lack of food, UNRWA had to donate their food rations," she said. "All these things, along with the diseases, have accumulated and permeated throughout the whole population."

"Gaza is an outrage," Dr. Cutting asserted. It is extremely crowded. It is an area of 40 kilometres by eight kilometres with 800,000 Palestinian residents. About two thirds are refugees from 1948 and half the population live in squalid refugee camps, she said. "Yet now, more than 30 per cent of the area has been expropriated by the Israelis who have accommodated

2,500 Jewish settlers," Dr. Cutting pointed out.

There is no sanitation, she continued. In the winter, because there is no drainage, the main road is flooded. "There are many donkey carts which the Israelis charge \$200 a year for licensing — an impossibility as it is hard for people to break out of the poverty trap."

The Gaza people feel suffocated, Dr. Cutting said. "For Palestinians to leave the Gaza Strip, they have to have special magnetic cards to pass through the border check point. The only university is closed. Israel interferes frequently with the health care centres, she added. The interference takes the form of delaying ambulances, arresting patients from the hospital and arresting health care personnel. "Forty per cent of about 160 child deaths were found to have happened because of deliberate actions by Israelis," Dr. Cutting maintained.

"Matters do not seem to be getting any better," Dr. Cutting added. MAP is now working towards increasing all levels of health care. In the Jenin area, MAP will expand its support for disabled school children with teaching material and teachers. It is estimated to cost \$55,000, according to Dr. Cutting. In Jerusalem, "we hope to establish an eye prosthesis (glass eyes) and support the salaries of two ophthalmic nurses," she said.

Dr. Cutting, who is a member of MAP-London, said she was not worried about the funding. "We are getting a lot of support." She added: "What I am worried about and shocked by is the brutality of the Israelis towards the Palestinians, especially the children."

Workshop to discuss protection of environment

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian Society for the Control of Environmental Pollution (JSCPEP) is holding a specialised workshop under the motto "environment and the media" on May 29 to discuss a host of matters related to the protection of the environment in the Kingdom.

A society announcement said that the workshop, which will be organised in cooperation with the Friedrich-Naumann-Stiftung Foundation, of Germany, is to be addressed by several lecturers on matters related to the protection of the environment and its impact on human health, desertification, the role of the media in spreading information about the environ-

ment, agriculture in Jordan, disposal of refuse and the role of government and non-governmental organisations in curbing pollution of the environment.

Among those addressing the two-day workshop will be Ahmad Obaidat, the society chairman, and a representative of the Friederich-Naumann-Stiftung Foundation.

The society, which groups 1,500 members, seeks to bolster cooperation with other organisations around the world and specialised international organisations that could provide financial and technical support to promote its activities in the Kingdom.

Conference to review Kingdom's agriculture

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Agriculture is preparing for a national conference, the first of its kind in Jordan, to discuss the country's agriculture; discussions will focus on matters designed to boost production and marketing, according to an announcement by Minister of Agriculture Mohammad Alawneh.

The minister said that the conference, which will be held in the third quarter of this year, would focus attention on studies and research work of Jordan's agricultural and livestock wealth and means of achieving qualitative improvement in attaining self-sufficiency.

Several working papers to be reviewed at the meetings are expected to discuss problems impeding agricultural development and means of overcoming them, said the minister in a statement

Tuesday. He said that the working papers, which will be prepared by Jordanian experts and agricultural engineers, are expected to dwell on marketing of agricultural products, prices of agricultural crops, production of fertilisers and seeds as well as improved saplings, irrigation, means of protecting crops from the pests, animal health and food processing industries.

Mr. Alawneh said that private and public sector organisations and individuals concerned with the agricultural sector will take part in the conference along with trade unions and academic institutions.

The minister has set up a special committee to prepare for the conference chaired by Ministry of Agriculture Secretary General Sami Sumaa.

U.N. body condemns Israel's settlement policy

AMMAN (Petra) — The United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS), which has just ended its 13th meeting in Harare, capital of Zimbabwe, condemned Israel for its refusal to allow a UNCHS team to investigate housing conditions of the Palestinian people under Israeli occupation and Israel's continued drive to build Jewish settlements on occupied Palestinian land, according to Yusef Hiyasat, director general of the Housing Corporation, who represented Jordan at the meeting.

The meeting issued a resolution reaffirming the rights of the Palestinians to implement a national housing strategy. Mr. Hiyasat said in a statement upon his return from the meeting. The resolution demands that the U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar work out a plan in cooperation with the UNCHS executive director and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to ensure the implementation of the Palestinian housing strategy from now and until the end of the century, Mr. Hiyasat said.

According to Mr. Hiyasat, the participants approved a plan to stimulate the UNCHS Regional Training Centre in Amman which was established in 1987 to offer services to the Arab region. He said that the centre was expected to resume its activities and training programmes in the second half of 1991, now that a general plan was approved in this regard at a meeting held in Nairobi, Kenya.

Jordan's delegation submitted a general resolution on the housing needs of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories which was approved by the meeting and was attended by various world nations including the following Arab countries: Iraq, Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, the United Arab Emirates.

Jordan, Mr. Hiyasat said, was among the foremost countries which had worked out a national housing strategy that was approved by the Council of Ministers in 1988 and started implementing it immediately.

Mr. Hiyasat said that the Jordanian delegation had submitted to the meeting a working paper explaining the implementation of this strategy and held side talks with various delegations.

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His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Tuesday confers with a delegation representing the World Veterans Federation (WVF) which is currently visiting Jordan (Petra photo)

Symposium tackles disabled children

KARAK (Petra) — Ministry of Social Development Secretary General Mohammad Al Suqour Tuesday stressed the need for forging closer cooperation between the family and the health and national institutions in order to maintain children's rights and provide their basic needs.

Addressing a symposium on Rights of the Jordanian Child, organised by Karak Governorate Social Development Department, Mr. Suqour called for providing protection, social security and social services to children.

He said that Jordan had directed special attention to children and had enacted legislation, rules and regulations designed to ensure their rights to education, training and health. He added that the treasury had provided JD 3 million in the form of exemptions on equipment for the disabled children.

Dr. Rafe Zughoul, assistant professor at Muta University who attended the symposium, said Jordan had gone a long way on the path of providing health, edu-

cational, recreational, legal and rehabilitation services to children.

Director of the Social Development Department Saleh Suqour, who also addressed the symposium, highlighted the importance of household care for children, the role of parents in bringing up their children, and the society's role in educating them.

The symposium was attended by Karak Governor Eid Qataneh and a number of department directors and citizens.

Minister urges cleanliness campaign in Jordan Valley

AMMAN (J.T.) — A special committee set up to deal with the question of common flies and other insects that infest the Jordan Valley region, especially the farmlands, has announced that it would put into force recommendations and decisions approved by the government with regard to a plan of action to deal with the situation.

The announcement was made after a committee meeting chaired by Minister of Water and Irrigation Saad Hayel Serour who said that the implementation of the recommendations would start next Saturday.

"Wet manure should not be transported from one place to another and the dry one should be well covered when taken to the fields or could be dumped and covered with soil immediately," said one of the recommendations. Natural fertilisers are believed to be the main source of pests in the area.

Mr. Serour also announced the formation of technical committees, from the ministries of health, education and awqaf as well as the University of Jordan, to conduct public awareness campaigns in residential districts in the valley and to tour schools, mosques, clubs and municipalities to publicise information, through the media, about general hygiene and cleanliness.

The committee urged the municipal councils to improve methods of collecting and transporting refuse and dumping the garbage and to urge the use of plastic bags in transporting the waste products.

The committee also recommended stricter control over poultry slaughter houses and over the process of dumping their refuse, and called on all farmers to follow sound and hygienic techniques in the process of stockbreeding.

Jordan to take part in Bucharest fair

AMMAN (J.T.) — A number of Jordanian commercial and industrial companies will take part in an exhibition of consumer products, due to be held in Bucharest between 30 May and 6 June, according to a press release issued by the Romanian Embassy in Amman. It said the embassy will be hosting a meeting for Jordanian businessmen, next Saturday, to discuss means of enhancing and diversifying commercial exchange.

World doctors say thousands of Iraqi children died from lack of medicine, malnutrition

AMMAN (J.T.) — A prominent member of the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW) announced here Tuesday that thousands of Iraqi children have died due to the shortages of medicine and the spread of diseases resulting from malnutrition or diarrhoea caused by contaminated drinking water.

Ulrich Gottstein of Germany, who is the IPPNW's vice president, said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that two teams of his group had visited Iraq this month in order to determine the pressing medical needs of the Iraqi people and to conduct an assessment of the health situation in the southern regions of Iraq.

The two teams, who toured Karbala, Najaf, Hillah, Basra in the south, Karkuk, Suleimania,

Erbil and Mosul in the north, have found that 80 per cent of the deaths were children who passed away due to malnutrition and severe diarrhoea.

"The IPPNW has raised one million Deutschmark (DM) to buy medical supplies and children milk as well as water purification equipment which have now been shipped to Baghdad in cooperation with the Iraqi Red Crescent Society," Dr. Gottstein said.

He said that the two teams took active part in the distribution of these supplies to various hospitals and closely studied the health situation in various regions.

"Iraq still suffers from chronic shortage of medicines despite the lifting of sanctions on humanitarian and basic commodities, and a great deal of vaccines and blood units have been destroyed when

the electric power was cut during and after the Gulf war," Dr. Gottstein added.

He expressed hope that all economic sanctions would be lifted soon so that Iraq can buy its needs of food and medicine.

A team from the IPPNW had visited Iraq during the sanctions and before the Gulf war and said that no less than 60 million people mostly civilians and children living within the Gulf zone, would be directly affected by the conflict and its consequences.

Upon the team's return to Frankfurt, Dr. Gottstein said, he planned to hold a press conference to brief the German people on the sufferings of the Iraqi nation as a result of the Gulf war.

The IPPNW, which was established in 1980, groups 320,000 physicians from 71 nations.

Palestinians

(Continued from page 1)

He met King Fahd and Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal. Officials in Saudi Arabia, which restored relations with Moscow during the Gulf crisis last September after a break of 50 years, said Mr. Bessmertnykh's talks in the kingdom were friendly and useful for strengthening the Saudi-Soviet relationship.

Few details were available but the Saudis formally thanked the Soviet Union for its diplomatic support during the Gulf war.

The Saudi Press Agency said Mr. Bessmertnykh and Prince Saud discussed "the Palestinian question and the present efforts to settle it," as well as bilateral relations.

The Saudi newspaper Al-Jazirah said in an editorial on Tuesday that Moscow and Washington should keep their efforts to persuade Israel to withdraw and that the Arabs would be willing to fight for their rights if necessary.

"They ought to persuade Israel, or compel it if it maintains its futile rejection of peace, to recognise Arab rights, especially those of the Palestinian people, and give up land in return for peace."

"If Israel thinks the Arabs will not fight for their rights, then it is mistaken. It is true that the Arabs do not want war and destruction, but if war is the only way to recover the land and rights, the time will come when they will wage a jihad," it said.

The Soviet news agency TASS reported on Monday that King Fahd said he intended to visit the Soviet Union.

In Geneva, Mr. Bessmertnykh and Mr. Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), are expected to discuss Palestinian representation in the proposed peace conference.

Moscow shares Syria's demand for a U.N. and European community role in a conference.

Mr. Bessmertnykh took part in the formal opening of the new Soviet embassy in Riyadh Tuesday morning before heading for

Bush

(Continued from page 1)

certain conditions and I'd like to think that I will."

The two leaders had been scheduled to meet in the Soviet capital in February, but the talks were postponed, ostensibly due to the Gulf war and the failure to finish work on a treaty to slash long-range nuclear weapons which was to be signed at the summit.

The United States also was understood to be reluctant to hold talks in the wake of Mr. Gorbachev's apparent retreat from democratic reforms and a bloody crackdown against separatists in Lithuania and Latvia.

Negotiations to complete work on the nuclear weapons treaty stalled when a dispute erupted over interpretation of another arms pact, the sweeping 22-nation accord to reduce and balance conventional forces throughout Europe.

An exchange of letters between Mr. Bush and Mr. Gorbachev has resolved some of the differences, and the Kremlin's military chief of staff, Mikhail A. Moiseyev, is due in Washington next week to try to resolve the remaining problems.

"We hope the process will be a success because Gen. Moiseyev will go to the United States not with an empty portfolio," Gorbachev spokesman Vitaly Ignatenko said at a Moscow briefing.

Secretary of State James Baker said Monday the United States had agreed "to continue working toward the possibility of a summit," but he said setting a new date would depend on the success of the negotiations to settle remaining differences over the conventional weapons treaty and a future accord to reduce the two countries' strategic weapons arsenals.

WHAT'S GOING ON EXHIBITION

- ★ Art exhibition by Nazir Ismail at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of etchings, lithographs and monographs, by Ahmad Nawash and Yasser Duweik at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation (10 a.m. — 5 p.m.)
- ★ Exhibition of Arab calligraphy at the University of Jordan.
- ★ Plastic art exhibition by Jordanian artists Ziad Al Momani, Jawad Hataleh and Sultan Al Kofahi at Yarmouk University.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings and handicrafts by Jordanian artist Jamilah Saleh at Muta University.
- ★ Exhibition of embroideries, knit wear, artificial flowers and wood work by deaf students at Queen Alia Centre for the Hearing Impaired, Zarqa.

FILM

- ★ Feature film entitled "The Shooting Party" at the British Council — 5:00 p.m.

Jordan Times

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U.N. has presence

THERE are efforts being made by Israel and some in the American media to portray Syria as the stumbling block in efforts to hold a Middle East peace conference. The propagandists cite Syrian insistence on U.N. presence in such parley as the major obstacle to holding it. Why they are doing that is anybody's guess. Our concern is that the Syrian position is being either deliberately distorted or misunderstood. The justification for our contention is not hard to find in some basic principles and facts known to all. First, Damascus' call for a U.N. role in the anticipated negotiations to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict is shared by all Arabs, including Jordan. On the surface, it may appear this Arab demand is a question of form and modalities. Close scrutiny of the issue, however, would reveal that there is more to it than meets the eye. For a starter, the U.N. system was hailed not too long ago as the very machinery to resolve regional and international conflicts. The international community could have bypassed the U.N. Security Council to deal with the Kuwaiti crisis but chose instead to involve it all the way through in the decision making leading to the resolution of that situation. It was no mere matter of form that led the comity of nations to seek an effective role for the U.N. in the quest for a solution of the Gulf crisis but rather the deep conviction that the U.N. system was created principally for the very purpose of resolving regional and international conflicts that threaten global peace and security.

Second, the conflicts of the Middle East concern not only this region but the entire world. There is near unanimity that the Arab-Israeli conflict affects peace and security worldwide. On the basis of this point of view, we can easily conclude the world community has a vested interest in bringing peace to the Middle East and wants to be part of the endeavours to do that.

Third, there is no way that any country can argue that the Arab choice for a real U.N. role in any futuristic negotiations between Israel and its neighbours can be equated with Tel Aviv's constant declarations to the effect that it would never relinquish one inch of the "land of Israel" which it describes as stretching from the Mediterranean to the River Jordan.

The nut that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and his Soviet counterpart Alexander Bessmertnykh should crack is not the legitimate and logical call by the Arab side for a substantive role for the U.N. but rather the Israeli intransigence against the exchange of territory for peace as clearly envisaged by Security Council resolutions 242 and 338. It is self-defeating to depict Damascus and the Arab side as the obstacle to peace when the whole world knows who the real culprits are.

Fourth, the Security Council's involvement is all the more pressing in view of the disparity in views of the parties on the legal and political import of resolutions 242 and 338. With Israel upholding an interpretation of these resolutions that runs counter to logic and common belief, it becomes incumbent on the council to get involved in the process of implementing them. After all, they are U.N. resolutions and only the U.N. has the mandate and jurisdiction to define and interpret them.

His Majesty King Hussein made clear Jordan's view on this question yesterday. Mr. Baker heard it, and so did the journalists accompanying him. We can only hope that the message was clear enough to all of them.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i Arabic daily criticised what the foreign ministers of the Soviet Union and the United States have stated about the search for a key to the peace process and asked: Don't these superpowers have the key yet? The paper said the two foreign ministers should realise that the key lies in the implementation of the international legitimacy and U.N. Security Council resolutions concerning the Arab-Israeli question, and therefore, it is up to the Israelis to take the first step to achieve peace by implementing these resolutions. But unfortunately both foreign ministers have said they do not intend to exercise any form of pressure on Israel to force it to comply with the international legitimacy, which the paper said, gave Shamir further encouragement to hold on to the occupied lands and to declare openly that Israel will never relinquish any part of the occupied territory. It is thus clear that the key to peace is available to the superpowers, but it seems that they are reluctant to use it, the paper added. It is to be noted that the United States has clung to the international legitimacy in its dealing with the Gulf crisis, but it seems now it is going back on its policy and is inclined to allow certain states exercise violations of international law and get away with it. The Americans are instead claiming that the key to peace is yet to be found, and trying to convince the Arab countries to establish normal ties with Israel as a price they have to pay for sitting at the negotiating table with the Jewish state. Searching for the key to peace, said the paper, is like searching for the sun during the day time when it is clear and bright; and those searching for the key should rather embark on measures to force the Jewish state to comply with the will of the international community.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily Tuesday urges the Water Authority of Jordan to adhere to the water distribution programme it had announced earlier and ensure sufficient supplies for all regions in the Amman area. Salah Abdul Samad says that the Water Authority is to be lauded for its endeavours, but the past few days had proved that water does not reach certain regions in accordance with the declared distribution programme. The writer notes that perhaps there are certain technical matters that ought to be dealt with before a fair distribution can take place, and if so, the Water Authority ought to make extra efforts to ensure that such matters are dealt with promptly in view of the hot weather and the growing needs by all citizens of sufficient water for domestic use.

Economic Forum

When two conflicting views are right

By Dr. Abdalla Malki

THE International Monetary Fund (IMF) believes that Jordan should take as many and as harsh measures as necessary to adjust its economy, and it insists on that. Jordan believes, one would presume, that such measures should not impinge on the living standards of Jordanians and that the Fund will be wrong if it insists on them. Both are right, simply because each, the Fund and Jordan, are what they are.

The Fund thinks globally and envisions the world as one economic unit. Naturally, no barriers should exist within such a unit especially those on trade. The world is thus one market in which commodities, among other production factors, should move smoothly. Nothing is detrimental to economic growth and thereby to world welfare more than market distortions such as those caused by trade barriers which should therefore be dismantled. The IMF has mandated itself to fulfill a "lofty" goal: Free trade in a world with market economy.

However, the Fund thinks in macro terms. In the process of achieving the above goal, it cannot afford to think of details and unique problems of specific countries. Some countries might suffer but this is only natural and unavoidable and constitutes part of the price to be paid for creating a more economically advanced world. An expressive example is the car market which, in the conceptualisation of the Fund, includes all the countries of the world. Any country that bans car imports, even limousine cars, contributes to the distortion of this market and therefore has to be

persuaded, and if necessary forced, to allow the imports of limousines if there are persons in it who can afford buying them even if certain classes cannot afford to buy bread. Restricting car imports does not allow car factories (in America, Germany, France or Japan) to work at a higher capacity and thereby does not enable them to maximise their profits (through lower marginal costs). This makes the world worse off, an outcome which the IMF cannot tolerate. They might be right.

Jordan, for its part, puts the issue in its logical context. The devaluation of the dinar bit away around 45 per cent of the purchasing power of wage earners. Direct and indirect taxes took away another segment of consumers' disposable income. The consequential surge in inflation since 1988 pushed up the costs of living by around 60 per cent. The economic slowdown in the area and in Jordan boosted joblessness rates to something around 20 per cent. It is therefore unfair, unsafe and inhumane to adopt more austerity measures if they are to encroach further on the living standards of a populace who already have overtightened their belts. This is right; absolutely right.

In a confrontation between the Fund and a developing country like Jordan over such issues the former will undoubtedly emerge a decisive winner. The industrial countries of the world, led by the United States, to whose interests the free trade theory works first and foremost, provided the Fund with the necessary powers and tools to guarantee such an outcome. But this is a hollow victory.

Jordan is one case where the Fund is urged to think a little bit in micro terms. There are good reasons why it should do so, on top of the social dimension which dominates the thinking of Jordanian policy-makers.

Jordan has been very serious about the adjustment process. Its burgeoning democracy deserves encouragement and should not be blighted by an impediment through cold-blooded economic calculations symptomatic of the Fund's thinking. Third, in dealing with the Jordan case, the Fund overemphasised the budget deficit and therefore dragged in this direction the Jordanian economic policy which became hostage to the goal of eliminating this deficit at the expense of other economic issues including investment. Consequently, the Fund underemphasised, or completely ignored, investment and thus stalled economic growth which is supposed to be the engine that generates more income, more public revenues, more exports, more import substitution — measures which are needed to redress Jordan's economic imbalances in a balanced way.

In our coming negotiations with the Fund on the new adjustment programme we sincerely hope that attention will be focussed on enhancing the investment potential and spreading the adjustment process over a considerably longer period of, say, seven to ten years. Success is not only in the interest of Jordan but also in the best interests of our creditors whom the Fund represents.

Hope for greater democracy in the Middle East

By Berta Gomez

WASHINGTON — A panel of U.S. scholars expressed optimism over the prospects for greater democracy in the Middle East, but they warned that any changes must come from within the region itself and could require an extended period of time to take hold.

Post-war Kuwait is ideally positioned to revive its democratic institutions, and the United States should use its influence to encourage and support moves in that direction, the experts said May 9 at a hearing of the Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on Near East and South Asia.

Dr. Phoebe Marr, a professor at the National Defence University, noted that Washington, with its "paramount influence" in Kuwait, ought to give quiet encouragement to Kuwaiti groups that are calling for open parliamentary elections, a free press, and other fundamental reforms.

"I think there has been really remarkable movement" in the direction of democracy, she said. Marr and the other witnesses — Professor Seth P. Tillman of Georgetown University and John Esposito, director of the Centre for International Studies at the College of the Holy Cross — agreed that Kuwait is currently the Middle Eastern state most open to change and the one most likely to serve as an example for other countries in the region.

All of the panelists praised the efforts of the National Republican Institute for International Affairs (NRIIA), a non-profit pro-democracy organisation that met recently with Kuwaiti opposition leaders to give advice on party politics, grass-roots organisation, and other aspects of the democratic process.

Tillman noted that Kuwait's "limited experience with representative government, combined with its desperate dependency on the United States for help in reconstruction, offer the United States its best opportunity in the region to apply pressure and also to offer inducements and assistance for democratic reform."

U.S. officials "can't dictate" changes to the current government of Kuwait, "but you can press very hard," Tillman said. "Kuwait," he added, "is the best way to establish democracy in the region."

"Kuwait's limited experience with representative government, combined with its desperate dependency on the United States for help in reconstruction, offer the United States its best opportunity in the region to apply pressure and also to offer inducements and assistance for democratic reform."

Tillman made clear, however, that strong U.S. pressure on other regimes would be ineffective and ill-advised. Pointing to the recent changes in Eastern Europe, Tillman suggested that the real catalyst for democracy there — and elsewhere — was not official U.S. policy, but "the example of freedom and prosperity in the democratic West."

Similarly, the impetus for change in a country such as Saudi Arabia, he said, "is impelled by the influence of the many

thousands of young Saudis who have studied at American universities and experienced firsthand the exhilaration of intellectual and political freedom."

Tillman suggested that rather than apply official pressure on Riyadh, the cause of democracy would be far better served by increasing the number of Saudi students allowed to study in the United States.

He stressed that the implantation of democracy in the Middle East "will be a difficult, daunting and protracted process," and must, above all, "be preeminently indigenous."

For his part, Esposito addressed the issue of Islam and the question of whether democracy is ultimately compatible with Islamic culture and tradition.

Although he had no clear answer, and acknowledged the "mixed record" of "Islamic experiments" in Pakistan, Iran and the Sudan, Esposito argued that democracy has gained increased acceptance and prestige throughout the Arab and Muslim world.

"It would be too much to conclude that democracy is entrenched in modern Islamic political thought and practice, but it can be said that it is a powerful symbol of legitimacy... precisely because it is seen to be a universal good," he said.

The coming decade, Esposito predicted, will see moderate Islamic organisations "pursuing" a policy of gradualism, calling for political liberalisation and democratisation, seeking to bring about change within the political system.

"In the aftermath of the Gulf war," Esposito said, "political liberalisation and democratisation are among the most important issues in the Middle East" — U.S. Information Agency.

GARFIELD



'Messages' from the omnipotent

By Nermeen Murad

TO the majority of people in Jordan, television is the only source of entertainment. For education, however, we have hundreds of schools, tens of universities and community colleges, a good number of cultural centres, bookshops, lecture halls, libraries etc. However, it seems the something lately went wrong. Jordan television has become another source of education. Entertainment has become a taboo. When JTV officials speak of their plans for the future of our two television channels they talk of "guided series with a message," "children's cartoons with a message," "talk shows with a message," even "comedies with a message." Another trend is "television programmes from our unique social system," "programmes that depict our culture," "50-part series on our Islamic heritage," and so on. Fine. What we really want to know is what is exactly the message? Are we being told that entertainment is a sin? Are we being told that when we watch the social problems of other people we are so stupid that we are bound to imitate them? Who is determining what the people want from television? Who decides what is the "me-

ssage" that people want to hear? Who decided that Jordanians want a national committee made up of a few people to decide what they should learn through this television programme or that? We do not remember being asked.

Meanwhile

This is not an argument against documentaries. We have to know the facts and something about history. But only the facts, not also the way we should understand them. We also need to know all the facts, not just those serve the intended "message." If we are talking about democracy then the people of the media must be the first to know what that word means. What we are witnessing now are unilateral decisions, which affect over three million people, but are taken by the selected few.

Why don't we have talk shows in which Islamists, Arab nationalists, Communists and the representatives of the silent majority fight it out without a central figure to cut out the edges? Why don't we have media persons arguing with common people on the performance of our newspapers? Why don't we have parliamentarians being questioned

by the people who elected them? Why don't we have our finance minister questioned, and I mean questioned not battered, by economists on our economic policies? Why isn't our social development minister put on the screen to hear those who support him and those who reject his decision to segregate male and female employees in his ministry?

There is no need to continue questioning, the "message" is obvious. There has to be debate, discussions and outright argument, not lectures by those "who know it all." While our society goes into the phase of pluralism our television is giving us a uniform message that wraps us up in our culture and heritage and bans the "sin" of entertainment in the name of conservatism and traditions. It has been said again and again and we are repeating it now: The people are not stupid; rather, they are silent. But if this disregard for people's intelligence continues, no one can blame them for allowing JTV "message" to channel itself into the airwaves but never find a screen on which it could come out. With western technology made available to us, and with God's unique creation of the human body, all we have to do is push a button with a finger. Get the message?

Conservative feminism: Stop whining and get a grip

By Deborah Zabarenko
Reuter

WASHINGTON — At first glance, "conservative feminism" looks like a contradiction in terms, like "military intelligence" or "bureaucratic efficiency."

But for those who think the typical conservative woman is a blend of Nancy Reagan, Phyllis Schlafly and "Total Woman" author Marabel Morgan, the notion of conservative feminism is something completely new.

Katherine Kersten, a Yale-educated lawyer who left work to raise her children, explained her idea in a manifesto entitled "What Do Women Want?" published by the conservative Heritage Foundation think-tank.

The title alone is guaranteed to generate attention this year and next, as political strategists try to answer the same question to appeal to women voters in presidential elections.

Women can have it all, Kersten explained at a recent Washington lunch with reporters, but not all at the same time, and not without sacrifice. She blames militant feminists for painting too rosy a picture of the liberated woman's life which includes marriage, children and career.

"To the extent that contemporary feminism abandons its true mission to focus on oppression and self-absorption it creates social ills more destructive than those it seeks to remedy," Kersten wrote.

"By giving rise to expectations that can never be met, (feminism) condemns women to despair and consigns them to permanent

"victimhood."

This is a far cry from the 1960s, when the two conservative women who spoke out on the feminism question were staunchly against it: Phyllis Schlafly, who successfully lobbied against the equal rights amendment, and Marabel Morgan, whose book "The Total Woman" advised wives to keep their husbands faithful by wearing nothing but transparent plastic wrap and mixing a perfect Martini.

Former first lady Nancy Reagan, recently in the news because of a scathing unauthorised biography, embodied the way most conservative women were expected to make a difference: by helping the men they married.

In fact, Kersten feels conservatism is what feminism has needed all along, especially for legions of women who agree with many feminist tenets but do not consider themselves feminists.

"American women need conservatism, with its sense of the fundamental limitations of human nature and the value of the western tradition, to temper the serious excesses that threaten contemporary feminism," she wrote.

She avoids taking a stand on some key feminist issues, notably abortion rights and subsidised day care, but says her own experience has shown her that many women would choose to stay home to raise their children if they could.

The notion of men as women's

adversaries is unworkable, and feminists who believe men are their enemies are bound to be mired in useless rage, Kersten suggested.

Instead, men and women should be able to work together for the good of themselves and their communities, she wrote.

Mainstream feminists say Kersten's ideas have been around almost as long as women's liberation and is not necessarily in conflict with it.

"It's a movement on the part of conservative women not to deny their times," said Catharine Stimpson, a prominent feminist who is now dean of Rutgers University graduate school.

"They are educated. They want careers at some point. They want the benefits of mainstream feminism."

"They want to make a political statement that can be in tune with both their preference and their conservative ideology," Stimpson said in a telephone interview. "I think it's an attempt to have their cake and eat it too."

Molly Yard, president of the National Organisation for Women, goes farther.

"She's either got a basic misunderstanding about what the modern feminist is or she's dishonest," Yard told Reuters by telephone after reading Kersten's article.

"I think feminism is liberating to women and anything but making them feel sorry about themselves," Yard said.

Ancient hatreds fuel fighting between Armenia, Azerbaijan

By Viora Bennett
Reuter

MOSCOW — The erosion of Communist rule has led to a resumption of the age-old racial and religious feuding between the republics of Azerbaijan and Armenia in Transcaucasia in the Soviet South.

Dozens have died in the most recent violence in the region which links the old Russian and Turkish Ottoman empires.

"The situation in Transcaucasia had been frozen since the Communists came to power. Now it's unfreezing and things are starting again where they left off in 1920," Felix Mamikonian, Armenian mission chief in Moscow told Reuters.

The spark for the latest violence, which Azerbaijan and Armenia said caused 20 and 50 deaths respectively in the past two weeks, was the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh.

The mountainous region is part of Azerbaijan, but is populated mainly by Armenians and is claimed by Armenia.

Since the early part of the century the Communist Party has managed to keep a lid on regional hostilities but hundreds have died since fighting erupted in 1988.

Armenia says the latest bloodletting involves traditional ethnic tensions with its predominantly Muslim neighbour. But there is also a new political element.

Armenia's nationalist government, which threw out its Communist predecessor in elections last May, has accused Moscow of "state terrorism" and of siding with Azerbaijan, which has re-

mained Communist. Moscow and Azerbaijan, however, say their troops are only there to disarm Armenians who provoke violence.

"Before, the centre (Moscow) was more or less neutral. There were Communists in Moscow, in Yerevan and in Baku. Moscow had to keep peace between two Communist societies," Mamikonian said in an interview in Friday.

"Now the problem has taken on a completely new look," he added.

Nagorno-Karabakh is a farming area of about 4,400 square km roughly mid-way between Armenia's capital Yerevan and that of Azerbaijan, Baku.

The rich vineyards and mountain villages saw another spate of bloodletting between the two peoples from 1818 to 1820.

Armenian resentment has simmered since 1923 when Vladimir Lenin and Turkish leader Kemal Ataturk made a deal giving Nagorno-Karabakh to Turkey's Muslim protégé, Azerbaijan.

Armenia said that as a Soviet pay-off to Azerbaijan for converting to Communist in 1920 in the wake of the October revolution that brought Lenin to power, Mamikonian said.

After three years of independent nationalist government, Armenia joined the Soviet Union only in 1921 after the Soviet army marched through Azerbaijan and occupied Nagorno-Karabakh.

With non-Communists in power in two of Transcaucasia's

three republics, Azerbaijan is once again alone in backing Moscow. Armenia and Georgia both want to leave the Soviet Union.

"The situation now has started to be reminiscent of democratic Armenia, democratic Georgia and Communist Azerbaijan of 1920," Mamikonian said.

"Things have come full circle." Azerbaijanis and Armenians have often lived in the same communities, especially after Baku became an important oil city at the turn of the century.

In the 1800s both regions were carved up. Armenia, often called the world's oldest Christian nation, was split between Russia and Turkey, while Azerbaijan, Muslim since the seventh century, was divided between Russia and Iran.

But both peoples have zealously tried to guard their traditions against encroachment by the other.

"Of course in the history of Azerbaijan and Armenian relations there have been many stormy events," Elmira Kafarova, chairwoman of the Azerbaijan parliament Presidium, said.

Some grievances had to do with labour unrest and economic rivalry. In the oil fields many workers came from Azerbaijan — their rich bosses were from Armenia.

"But there were also years of happiness, when we lived together as neighbours and shared our food and our sorrows. Because of that, there is a basis for thinking that peace can come to our region," Kafarova added.

King, Baker cover substantial ground

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Baker acknowledged that the role of the U.N. remained an obstacle. The King said that if asked by "the Palestinian people, Jordan would consider forming a joint delegation for peace talks."

"... It is time to move away from clichés and taboos and to see exactly who ... has the courage to make the necessary gestures and moves to ensure a better future for all concerned," the King said in reply to another question.

He described the decision by Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states to send an observer to a peace conference as "very, very positive" development.

Mr. Bush said Tuesday he is not discouraged about prospects for the conference and would not describe Mr. Baker's mission as a failure.

"There are ups and downs in this process, there always have been," Mr. Bush told reporters in Washington.

Mr. Baker left Jordan for Israel through the occupied West Bank, crossing the River Jordan. It was the first time that an American secretary of state crossed the river, and the overland journey afforded Mr. Baker an opportunity to see the effects of the Israeli occupation of the West Bank.

Following is the transcript of the press conference held earlier in Amman.

King Hussein: I'm aware of all the efforts. I believe we share a total commitment to the cause of peace in this region that is long overdue and I believe that this chance that now exists for a peace process to start with the Palestinian-Israeli Arab-Israeli regional peace in this region will probably never come back again. I hope that others have the same approach in this region and I can only say we will do our utmost to see an end to this state of turbulence in the region and hopefully a beginning of a different kind for all concerned. Palestinians, Arabs, Israelis in an atmosphere of peace and security with all it offers in terms of the future. I know we are not there yet. I know that there is much ground to be covered and we have been in touch with some of our brethren as I mentioned earlier if our Palestinian brothers approach us with (the idea of a) joint delegation to address themselves to the Palestinian-Israeli dimension of this problem and that will be something that we will look at very favourably and positively.

I would like to say as well that among the recent developments is the announcement by the GCC that they will be a part of this effort. I believe that this is a very very positive development and essentially what I am saying is what I said earlier that it is time to move away from clichés and taboos and see who is genuinely committed to the cause of peace and lasting peace in this area and to have the courage to make the necessary gestures and moves to ensure a better future for all concerned and future generations to come in this region. It is going to be hard and tough but let us see what can be done and certainly we won't be lacking. Mr. Baker: Thank you for your hospitality, for entertaining myself and colleagues. Thank you for also for that very important statement and let me simply say by way of echoing what you have said that what the U.S. wants to do anything we can to contribute to the establishment of a process for peace in this region, to the establishment of a peace that so long denied and which is so badly needed. I appreciate the time and detailed attention you have given today during our detailed discussion and deliberation I would like to tell my colleagues here with me and the travelling press that has been accompanying us that I am very very pleased with the discussions in the larger groups and those we had in a one-on-one form today and I just want to conclude by saying thank you very much for your very forthcoming approach to peace for your willingness to engage and to receive us here today and I would be pleased to try and respond to questions.

Question: Syria will not attend a peace conference unless there is a significant U.N. role and continuity in the conference. Is that also Jordan's position? King Hussein: Well, we have not had a chance to discuss it in great detail with our Syrian brethren their approach. But I believe that all hopefully would be as committed to the cause of peace and would realise the importance of movement... I believe that in the final analysis that when peace is achieved, if God is willing, it will end up with Security Council guarantees and with the blessing of the world community (preferably) the United Nations. I cannot go into all the details at this stage but we will hopefully have a chance to discuss them with our Syrian brethren...

Q: How about the U.N. role and continuity of the process? King Hussein: We definitely feel very very strongly that once the process starts we cannot afford to turn back and if we do so for any reason then the side responsible for that will have to take a historic responsibility for obstructing a solution to a problem that has affected so many people for such a long time and (we) cannot simply wait any longer.

The U.N. we are talking of 242 and 338... U.N. resolutions and I am sure the U.N. will certainly be there at the (initial to the final stages) because 242 does end up with Security Council guarantees.

Q: Evidently Secretary Baker did not have as pleasant a time in Damascus as he had speaking to you. Would Jordan go into peace talks with the Palestinians and Israel if Syria stays out?

Anti-pigeon rods, rash-free nappies and 'super eye' on show

By Claude Regis Reuter

GENEVA — Fed up with those unsightly and smelly pigeon droppings on your balcony?

Frenchman Alain Legout has the ultimate weapon — thin, stainless steel rods forming and invisible barrier which can be placed on any surface.

"Pigeons won't land and they won't be harmed either," says Legout, one of the nearly 600 exhibitors from 28 countries plying their products at the annual Geneva Inventors Exhibition, one of the largest in the world.

From Australia comes the "magic watering stick" designed to deliver water directly below the roots of plants, shrubs or trees.

A Belgian firm exhibits what it says is the ideal bed for users of caravans and motor homes. It has a slatted base with no side frames and can be rolled up for easy storage.

Chung Sun-Yung of South Korea thinks his invention will do away with nappy rash once and for all. It appears to be no more than a nappy with a separate pouch for the penis and testicles.

"We're diapers are always a hotbed for bacteria and I am sure my invention will change the health history of humanity," he boasts.

What about girls? "I will come up with something," Chung adds confidently.

Proud owners of high class cars can relax, for \$800 a Taiwanese firm can equip the radiator guard with a device that raises the car symbol when they start the engine.

It drops down again within 30 seconds as the engine is stopped.

"The device is provided with a water-proof, dust-proof and anti-pilferage protection guard which will be automatically covered after the device is pulled down," say inventors, the Taipei-based Chien Pao Motors Co.

As in previous years, Asian

nations were heavily represented at last month's exhibition, with inventions ranging from the downright trivial to potential breakthroughs.

The latter could include "super eye" a combination of traditional Chinese acupuncture and modern techniques. The maker claims it can eliminate near-sightedness and astigmatism after several months of regular, 15 minutes a day, use.

The pocket-sized, battery-operated device sends electrical shock waves to 12 key points around the eye. "It's acupuncture without needles," said Taiwanese inventor An-Chuan Wu.

He says he has patents pending in eight countries, including the United States, Germany and Japan, for his device which took nine years to develop.

"The length of treatment depends on the degree of myopia but my instrument has enabled 600 people to throw away their eye-glasses in Taiwan," added an.

His invention may be promised a bright future but most on view at the exhibition will probably sink into oblivion.

Two years ago, an Italian tried to prove to the world that pedalling backwards on a bicycle was less tiring and more natural. He has not been in the news much lately.

By contrast, a screw button from Sweden which you attach to your shirts in seconds, without thread, needle or sewing equipment, has been a smash hit.

Promising innovations this year include "Blocco" a spongy substance which imitates natural rock. When immersed in an aquarium it operates as a filter and favours the multiplication of bacteria.

The waste from the fish is recycled by the bacteria which turns into nutrients for the plants and fish.

"Hence, the aquarium only needs to be cleaned once a year and the fish need very little extra food," said a representative of Ecosystem, its French makers.

U.S. may build another camp

(Continued from page 1)

veron, a major camp in Turkey opposite the western edge of the allied zone, had shrunk from 80,000 to less than 1,000. "For all intents and purposes (it) is pretty much empty now," Col. Tangney told reporters.

Most Isikveren refugees are residents of Zakho and Batufa, two towns firmly in the control of

western troops in northern Iraq. A sprawling camp at Cukura further east is packed with at least 90,000 refugees, most from the Iraqi-controlled city of Dohuk.

Cukura was on the itinerary of British Defence Secretary Tom King, in Turkey and northern Iraq to tour refugee camps and visit British forces securing the eastern sector of the zone.

Israel may accept full EC role

(Continued from page 1)

munty while its exports to the EC were only one-third of the total.

The EC is expected to soon grant Israel loans of \$82 million

European currency units (almost \$100 million) of five years' interest to 193.5 million ECUs (\$232 million) in loans and interest subsidies because of the Gulf war.

Family planning targets critical for development and survival

The cost of meeting international targets in fertility and family planning will double in the next ten years — but the costs of missing them will be far higher, says this year's State of World Population Report from UNFPA/United Nations Population Fund.

"REACHING the targets will be critical for development — and even human survival — in the next century," says the Report.

The target is to increase the number of couples in developing countries using modern, voluntary family planning methods from 381 million in 1990 to 567 million by the end of the century, a net increase of about 50 per cent. The actual number of men and women choosing to plan their families for the first time or moving from one method of contraception to another will be about 2 billion.

Reaching the target will raise the proportion using modern contraceptive methods from 51 per cent to 59 per cent of married women of reproductive age in developing countries. The Report describes this as a "realistic" and "modest" target, but with "profound implications for programmes and policies." It was first adopted in 1989 by the International Forum on Population in the 21st Century, and is reflected in the International Development Strategy for the fourth United Nations Development Decade.

Providing these services will increase the cost of population programmes from \$4.5 billion in 1990 to \$9 billion annually by the year 2000. The bulk of resources for population programmes are found by developing countries themselves. Total development assistance for population is about \$675 million. The Report envisages that international assistance will rise to \$4.5 billion (including \$1 billion from UNFPA) with \$3.5 billion from governments in developing countries and \$1 billion from users.

The targets are based on the United Nations "medium" or "most likely" projection for future population growth.

Keeping on this track implies that world population will rise from 5.4 billion in mid-1991 to 6.4 billion in 2001 and 8.5 billion in 2025. This last figure has just been revised upwards by 38 million, "a small but significant increase," according to the Report.

Projections for the more distant future may have to be revised drastically. Expectations that population would stabilise at about 10.2 billion in about 2075 are being questioned: some analysts suggest that 10 billion may be reached by 2050, and that population growth will continue off at about 11.6 billion. Such possibilities "underscore the need for action," says the Report.

The medium projection implies that total fertility — a national measure of births per woman — will fall from 3.8 to 3.3 between now and the end of the century. The main route to lower fertility, says the Report, is voluntary contraception.

"The urgency of meeting the targets is further underscored by the extent of urban growth; the extent of environmental damage; the impending food crisis in many developing countries; the extent of infant and maternal mortality; the number of girls out of school; the continuing low status of women; and the mounting pressures of migration within and between countries," says the Report.

family planning efforts go together, says the Report. "Strong programmes are most effective" in more advanced stages of social and economic development; but they have a significant effect even in poorly developed economies, and among poor people. Low-income countries such as Sri Lanka and the states of Kerala and Tamil Nadu in India have shown that it is the quality of the services offered, and the ability of women and men to take advantage of them, which determines programme success. Human development may be as important as economic development for the success of family planning programmes.

But, the Report warns, "Family planning is far more than merely contraception. It is part of an environment in which everyone has opportunities and choices. Building these opportunities begins at birth, and depends among other things on the position of girls and women in their societies. Higher status for women brings more ability to choose; where the choice is available, women will take advantage of it."

"Countries which have achieved lower fertility despite modest economic performance

share an attitude to development which emphasises participation and community involvement. They emphasise equality between girls and boys in education and health care, and the full participation of women in society. Men are encouraged to play a full and responsible part in family planning."

More and better contraceptives will be needed, says the Report. "Commercial research and development is poorly funded; in some industrialised countries, it has virtually ceased. The burden has been partly taken up by developing countries and by international and non-governmental organisations." The Report welcomes new methods such as the long-lasting Norplant implant. But, it goes on, "special attention will be needed to develop better methods for men, to encourage them to take more responsibility for family planning."

Better family planning programmes are not the responsibility of one group of countries or individuals, the Report concludes. "As an essential part of the mechanism of development, responsibility for family planning belongs to everyone. The future depends on it."



Contraception, the central piece of the development jigsaw: Four key factors determine a population's fertility level: age at marriage, length of infertility period after birth, abortion level and contraceptive use. Of the four contraception has the greatest effect in reducing fertility (Illustration by Jackie Morris)

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2 seeds fall as Berlin tennis tournament opens

BERLIN (AP) — With Steffi Graf and Gabriela Sabatini enjoying first-round byes, two seeds fell as the \$500,000 Lufthansa Open Women's Tennis Tournament opened.

Graf, the no. 2 in the world, is the top seed, while Sabatini, ranked third, is seeded second in the clay court tournament.

If the seedings hold, Graf would meet Sabatini in the final. Sabatini, the hottest player on the tour, beat top-ranked Monica Seles to win the Italian Open Sunday. The Argentine has a five-match winning streak against Graf.

Seles is skipping the tournament.

Three seeds were in action Monday and only one, no. 11 Natalia Zvereva of the Soviet Union, advanced to the second round. Zvereva beat Claudia Kohde-Kilsch of Germany 6-1, 6-2.

Radka Zrubakova of Czechoslovakia upset ninth-seeded Leila Meskhi of the Soviet Union 6-2, 6-2, and Magdalena Maleeva of Bulgaria ousted 13th-seeded Judith Wiesner of Austria 6-0, 6-3.

Two Americans also advanced. Halle Cioffi beat Katharina Duell of Germany 6-2, 6-1, and Ginger Helgeson ousted Larisa Savchenko of the Soviet Union 6-3, 6-0.

In other first-round matches, Laura Garrone beat fellow Italian Katia Piccolini 7-6, 6-1; Florencia Labat of Argentina defeated Isabelle Cueto of Germany 6-1, 6-4; Elena Briukhovets of the Soviet

Union ousted Stephanie Rehe of the United States 6-3, 2-6, 7-6; and Naoko Sawamatsu of Japan downed another American, Rosalyn Fairbank-Nideffer, 6-3, 6-0.

Meanwhile, three's a crowd atop the women's tennis rankings.

Sabatini's clear-out victory over Monica Seles in Sunday's final of the Italian Open didn't make an immediate change in the leadership but set the stage for a possible shuffle in the next weeks.

The Argentine, raising her game each tournament, played aggressive, all-court tennis to defeat Seles in two sets, 6-3, 6-2.

It was the second straight loss in a tournament final for the 17-year-old Seles, who dethroned Steffi Graf as the world's no. 1 in March.

"There is no question that Gabriela, Steffi, Martina (Navratilova) and I are all very close," said Seles, who took some measure of consolation by later winning the doubles with Jennifer Capriati.

"It really depends on who is in better shape that particular week, and who has a little luck," Seles added.

The situation is a bit complicated.

WTA, the Women's Tennis Association, said Graf can regain the top spot with a win in the Lufthansa Cup in Berlin. But Sabatini, now no. 3, can also move up with strong showings in Berlin and the French Open in Paris, the upcoming Grand Slam

appointment on clay. As for the others, the 31-year-old Navratilova admitted she needs to get tougher mentally if she is to regain the top spots. She was ousted in the quarterfinals in Rome in two sets by Conchita Martinez.

The 15-year-old Capriati admitted she is getting increasingly frustrated by her inability to win against the best after a promising debut on the women's circuit last year. She was another two-set victim of Sabatini.

But that match was also a reflection of Sabatini's improving performance since gaining the needed confidence by winning the U.S. Open last year.

"I'm using everything on the court now, everything is coming together," said Sabatini after Sunday's match, a victory worth \$100,000.

Against Seles, she frequently rushed the net against one of the better passing games in women's tennis, scored point after point with sharply angled forehands and won seven key points with a deadly dropshot, a demonstration of how she kept Seles off balance.

Seles attributed part of her problem to the heavy conditions on the clay courts, slowed even more than usual by a rainstorm that interrupted play for 1 hour and 25 minutes.

But the talkative teenager also gave some credit to Sabatini, and graciously didn't harp on a disputed line call against her in the second set. "I had my chances. At the close points, she played better," Seles said.

Kasparov to concentrate more on chess

AMSTERDAM (R) — World chess champion Garry Kasparov, distracted by politics in recent weeks, sent a chill message to his opponents after a second consecutive poor showing in international tournament play.

"Anyone who is world champion must spend more time on his chess," the Soviet grandmaster told Reuters.

He was speaking after finishing joint third with old rival Anatoly Karpov in the Verenegde Sparbank Tournament in Amsterdam Monday — his worst result in a decade.

Vowing to concentrate harder on his chess in future, he added: "You should do certain things with a passion."

Only 28, Kasparov is already the highest rated chess player of all time, surpassing the tournament and match records set by U.S. world champion Bobby Fischer in the 1970s.

But he also harbours political ambitions, using his fame to focus attention on the Soviet radicals he supports and to criticize President Mikhail Gorbachev.

He resigned from the Russian Democratic Party in April after a disagreement with the founder, but still said last week that he may stand as a parliamentary deputy.

For 10 years Kasparov won every tournament he played in. He ended Karpov's nine-year reign as world champion in 1985 and has twice defended the title successfully against him.

Since that last defence in December, Kasparov's chess has lost its edge and his results have slipped.

In Linares, Spain, in March, he came second to rising Soviet star Vasily Ivanchuk. Sliding to third in Amsterdam, Kasparov said glumly: "Here I was not ready for the fight."

The tournament was won jointly by Britain's Nigel Short and Soviet grandmaster Valery Salov, with six points, half a point ahead of Kasparov and Karpov.

Rotterdam to bar English fans from city centre

ROTTERDAM, Netherlands (Agencies) — City officials plan to bar English soccer fans from the city centre prior to the Cup-winners Cup final between Manchester United and FC Barcelona, a city hall spokesman said.

Officials agreed to segregate English soccer fans in an undisclosed location the afternoon of the game, in response to demands from the business community which feared pre-game violence, said city spokesman Rein Van Gisteren.

He said shopkeepers had threatened to close down for the day if English fans were allowed in the centre of this city, which has been waging a battle to upgrade its image for the last decade.

Cafes and supermarkets have already agreed to shut down voluntarily to cut the availability of alcohol and help authorities keep order.

Rotterdam Mayor Bram Peper has issued a ban against any alcohol sales in Feyenoord Stadium, where the match will be played.

Wednesday's match will be the fourth time Manchester United plays against a continental European team since English teams were readmitted to European soccer competition last year.

A police spokesman said riot policemen will be visibly deployed in the city during the day of the match and will also help railroad policemen in dealing with hooliganism on trains.

A favourite tactic of Dutch soccer hooligans is to demolish the interior of commuter trains on which they travel to and from games.

The city is sponsoring a rock concert to help keep the carped English fans cool while they wait for transportation to the stadium. No information was available on pre-game activities for the Span-

ish fans. Meanwhile goalkeeper Carlos Busquets faces a baptism of fire when he makes his European debut for Barcelona on Wednesday.

The 23-year-old reserve plays only because vastly experienced Spanish national goalkeeper Andoni Zubizarreta is suspended after picking up two yellow cards in the competition.

Zubizarreta's calming influence is sure to be missed and Busquets' ability to cope with the direct English style before a crowd of 50,000 could be a major factor in the outcome.

Barcelona, who won the trophy for the third time in 1989, will also miss midfielder Guillermo Amor, suspended after being sent off in an ill-tempered semifinal second leg with Juventus.

United's only previous European triumph came 23 years ago when they won the European Cup and their hopes of adding to that tally have been hit by injury problems.

England central defender Gary Pallister is doubtful with a thigh strain sustained in a league match Saturday.

Goalkeeper Les Sealey has not played since gashing a knee in the

League Cup final last month but has resumed training and should be available.

Barcelona won their first Spanish championship since 1985 at the weekend despite a 4-0 defeat at bottom club Cadiz as closest rivals Atletico Madrid also lost.

United, by contrast, have missed out in domestic competitions and need a win for a place in Europe next season.

Both sides have potent attacks with Barcelona confident Belgian striker Kristo Stochkov will be fit despite missing the game at Cadiz with a thigh strain.

Stochkov, with six goals in the competition so far, has said he will play even if he needs a pain-killing injection.

United will look to Barcelona old boy Mark Hughes to show the Catalans what he is capable of.

The Welsh striker had an unhappy spell at Barcelona before returning to United in 1988.

Hughes and 34-year-old United captain Bryan Robson are the only survivors of the clubs' one previous European meeting seven years ago.

Robson scored twice as United beat Barcelona 3-2 on aggregate in a Cup Winners' Cup quarter-final.

Woodforde upsets Gilbert in Rome

ROME (Agencies) — Mark Woodforde has decided to let his racket do the talking at Rome.

"I had something to prove today," the tall, left-handed Australian said after he upset no. 8 seed Brad Gilbert 3-6, 6-2, 6-4 in the first round of the Italian Open. "I was pretty disgusted when I was not picked for the Davis Cup team that played France last week. And I wanted to show a few people in Australia that they shouldn't have left me out."

On Tuesday, top-seeded Boris Becker withdrew from the tournament, citing chronic back pain. Becker was scheduled to play Tuesday. Third-seeded Pete Sampras, the reigning U.S. Open champion, and second-seeded Andre Agassi were expected to play Tuesday.

Woodforde was the only player to knock off a seed in Monday's first round play. Jakob Hlasek, the no. 13 seed, fended off a strong challenge from Italian Paolo Canne to win 3-6, 6-2, 6-4. And no. 15 seed Alexander Volkov shook off a first set tiebreak loss to defeat Jan Siemerink of the Netherlands 6-7, (7-3), 6-3, 6-2.

The afternoon rains that had hampered the women's tournament last week returned Monday afternoon to stop play for nearly four hours. When play resumed, Juan Aguilera of Spain defeated Australian Pat Cash 3-6, 6-4, 6-1. Nicklas Kulti of Sweden defeated Italian Omar Camporese 7-5, 4-6, 6-4 in the night match.

Mark Woodforde has never been ranked among the top 10 players. Best known for his two wins over John McEnroe in 1988, the 25-year-old Australian's serve-and-volley game is hardly suited to red clay, and particularly to the damp, slow clay at Rome. Along with waiting to



Boris Becker

prove the Italian Davis Cup staff wrong, he also needed to prove to himself that he could win on clay.

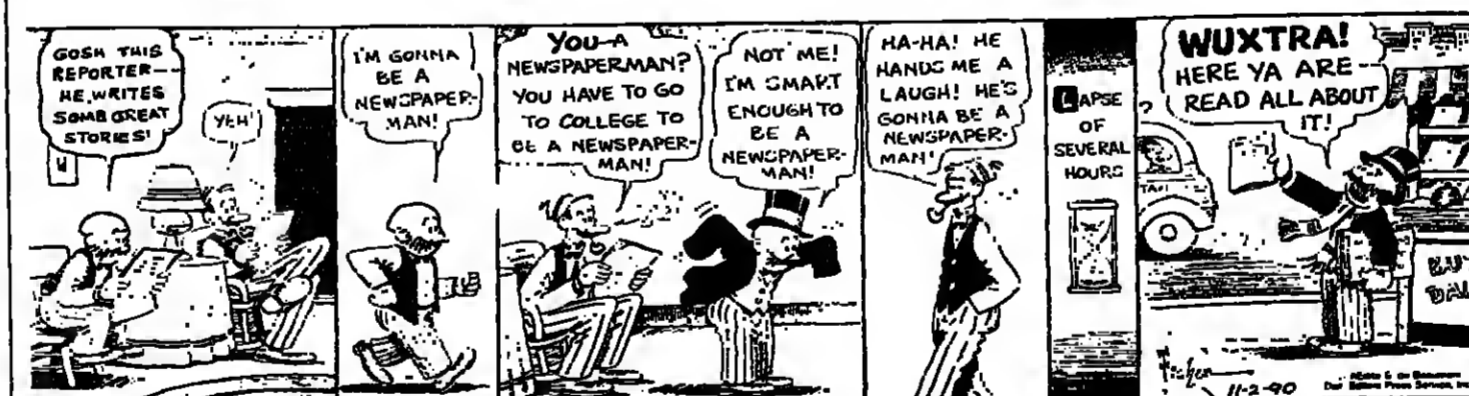
"I wanted to win this match very badly," he observed. "In my last four tournaments on clay, I've gone out in the first round. Until Barcelona in April, I hadn't played on clay for two years. It takes a while to adapt. I felt I was gradually piecing it together, but after four straight losses, you begin to lose your motivation."

You try to keep on smiling. But it's hard." Against Gilbert, Woodforde came on strong in the two final sets, following his well-stroked approach shots to net and hitting winning volleys.

"It was rather strange at the beginning," said Woodforde, cur-

rently no. 78 on the ATP computer. "Brad was playing very short, and I wasn't sure whether he was nervous, or whether he was trying to draw me in, so he could have a target like he needs."

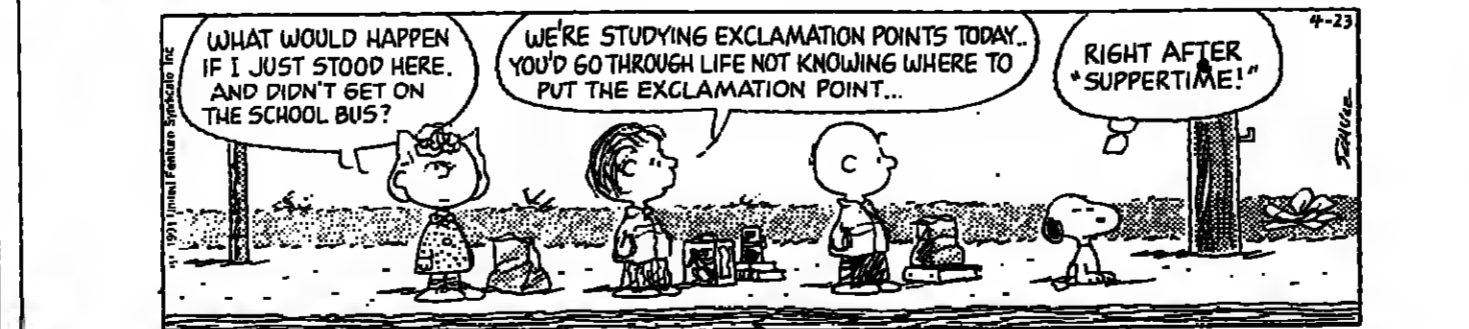
Mutt'n'Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



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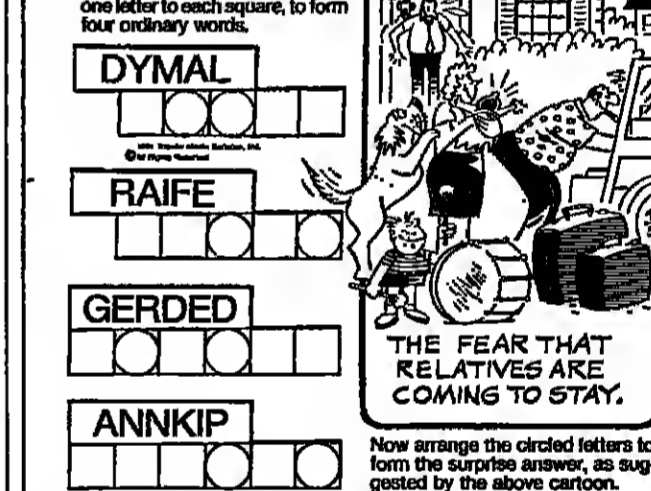
THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



JUMBLE.

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

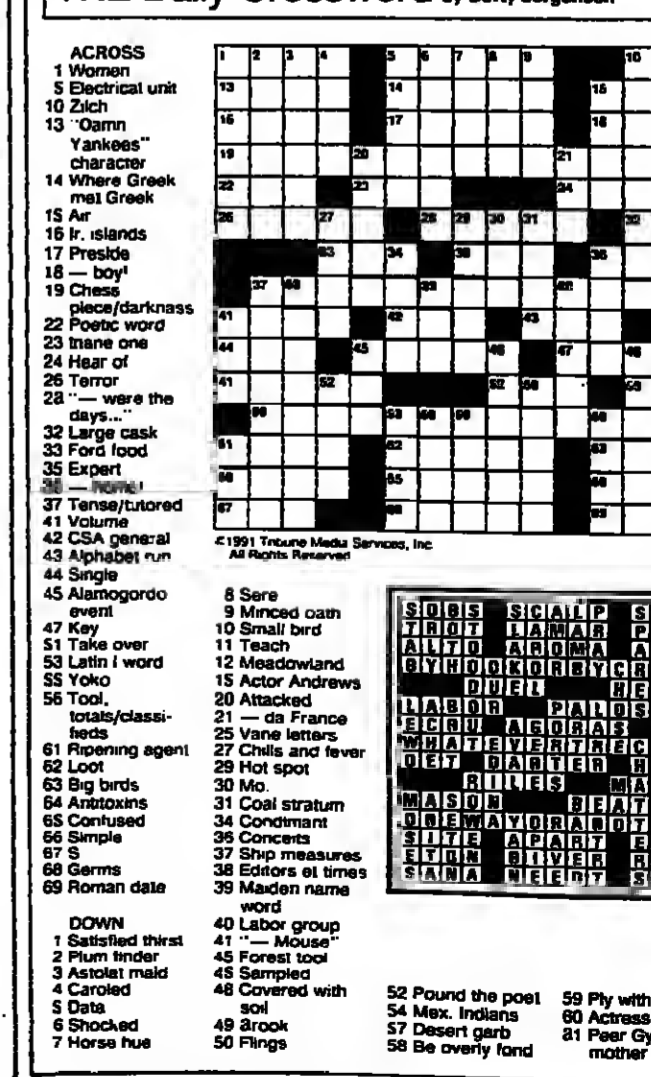


Answer here: (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: CRAFT VIRUS STURDY BEATEN

Answer: Influence is what you have until you try to use it

THE Daily Crossword by Betty Jorgensen



Economy

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 1991 7

Financial Markets

in co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close Date 13/5/1991	Tokyo Close Date 14/5/91
Sterling Pound	1.7340	1.7310
Deutsche Mark	1.7135	1.7135
Swiss Franc	1.4430	1.4430
French Franc	5.8030	5.7975
Japanese Yen	139.45	139.03
European Currency Unit	1.2015	1.2035

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Eurocurrency Interest Rates

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.87	5.93	6.06	6.50
Sterling Pound	11.87	11.37	11.18	10.87
Deutsche Mark	8.81	9.00	9.12	9.12
Swiss Franc	8.00	8.12	8.06	8.00
French Franc	9.00	9.06	9.12	9.16
Japanese Yen	7.90	7.71	7.62	7.40
European Currency Unit	9.62	9.43	9.55	9.50

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Precious Metals	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	357.95	6.70	Silver	4.01	.087

* 21 Karat

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	.680	.682
Sterling Pound	1.1769	1.1828
Deutsche Mark	.3968	.3988
Swiss Franc	.4717	.4741
French Franc	.1171	.1177
Japanese Yen	.4882	.4906
Dutch Guilder	.3521	.3539
Swedish Krona	.1107	.1115
Italian Lira	.0334	.0337
Belgian Franc	.01930	.01940

Other Currencies Date: 14/5/1991

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7400	1.7600
Lebanese Lira	.0720	.0740
Saudi Riyal	.1810	.1825
Kuwaiti Dinar		
Qatari Riyal	.1830	.1855
Egyptian Pound	.1900	.2050
Omani Riyal	1.7200	1.7400
UAE Dirham	.1850	.1829
Greek Drachma	.3570	.3870
Cypriot Pound	1.4240	1.4540

CAS Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	12/5/1991 Close	13/5/1991 Close
All-Share	112.72	112.94
Banking Sector	109.66	109.27
Insurance Sector	111.81	112.08
Industry Sector	116.48	117.48
Services Sector	121.31	123.01

December 31, 1990 = 100

Price of platinum seen rising to \$450

LONDON (R) — Supplies of platinum should remain in moderate surplus this year apart from occasional periods of tight supply, the world's largest refiner of the metal said in its annual review.

"After trading initially around \$400 an ounce, an improvement in the economic outlook should cause the price to rise towards \$450 during 1991," Johnson Matthey PLC of Britain said.

Platinum was quoted in Europe Monday around \$389.50 an ounce.

In 1990, the platinum market chalked up a small surplus of 70,000 ounces compared with a deficit of 45,000 ounces the previous year.

Last year Western demand for the metal, used primarily in jewellery and automobile catalytic converters to clean up noxious exhaust gases, rose 5.5 per cent to a record 3.66 million ounces.

Of that, the amount used in auto catalysts rose to 1.52 million ounces from 1.46 million the year before, despite the slump in vehicle sales and production in North

America. Supplies rose nine per cent to 3.73 million ounces and output in South Africa, the largest producer, increased modestly to 2.76 million ounces from 2.62 million the year before. Soviet shipments at 700,000 ounces were the highest for 15 years.

Moscow also sold record amounts of the related precious metals palladium and rhodium in a bid to raise hard currency for its struggling economy, Johnson Matthey said.

Western world demand for platinum in jewellery grew to 1.37 million ounces from 1.3 million the year before, helped by a growing retail network and popularity in Japan.

The investment climate remained poor for small bars of the metal and platinum coins, but large bars were keenly sought by investors in Japan during the last quarter.

Platinum fuel cells went into commercial production in 1990, an indication that they may be next major industrial application for the metal, Johnson Matthey said.

Iran looks for foreign investments in oil, gas

SINGAPORE (R) — Iran is looking for foreign investment, particularly from oil-consuming countries, to help it boost oil production and develop its enormous gas reserves, a National Iranian Oil Co. (NIOC) official said Tuesday.

"Joint investment operations would surely benefit both the producer and the consumer side, enabling the former to better utilise its reserves while allowing the latter group to enjoy the fruits of investments, secure in the knowledge that the supply of oil would continue," Javad Yarjani, managing director of NIOC in Singapore told the oil and money conference here.

Yarjani said development of Iran's massive gas reserves called for huge investments and advanced technologies. Iran holds 15

per cent of the world's gas, the second largest reserves after the Soviet Union.

"Huge gas projects are under construction and Iran's future projects include raising Iran's gas exports to Europe," he said.

Yarjani said Iran can now produce 3.5 million barrels per day (b/d) of crude oil and is willing to raise output to around five million to meet increased world oil demand.

He said the Middle East will remain the main source of oil supply for many years to come due to declining production outside the region.

But "a shortage of supply might appear in the late 1990s unless major consuming countries find themselves in a position to provide sufficient encouragement towards this very important issue."

Islamic bank lends Algerian firms \$47m

ALGIERS (R) — The Islamic Development Bank (IDB) has lent five Algerian state enterprises \$47.5 million to finance imports of raw materials and equipment, the official news agency APS reported.

The five enterprises signed the accords directly with the Jeddah-based IDB following recent government legislation to liberalise foreign trade.

The loans comprise \$13 million to household electrical firm Eniem for imports of freezer components, \$10 million to tex-

tile firm Cotitex for cotton imports, \$10 million to petrol and gas firm Sonatrach to buy glycol, \$9.5 million to public works enterprise SAPTA for equipment and \$5 million to paper and pulp firm Celmap for paper.

The IDB has so far granted Algeria \$1,247.5 million in concessional loans.

Algeria also signed four oil exploration accords with the French oil group Total-Compagnie Francaise des Petroles, the official news agency APS said.

Riyadh may have to borrow again to repay costs of war

RIYADH (AP) — Saudi Arabia will again have to borrow billions of dollars on international markets if it is to repay its Desert Storm contribution to the United States soon, Western diplomatic sources say.

But senior Saudi officials said the kingdom currently has no plans to raise additional international loans, after resorting to such borrowing earlier this year for the first time since the 1960s. The Western diplomats, who spoke on condition of not being identified further, said the United States has been seeking a timetable for Saudi Arabia to repay \$8 billion it still owes in war costs.

The Saudis pledged \$13.5 billion in cash and ground support services and so far have paid just over one-third.

One of the diplomats said the United States believes the Saudis are "committed to pay, believes they're going to pay and has no doubts about that."

There have been moves in the U.S. Congress to bar weapons sales to any country that does not provide a timetable for paying its Gulf war contributions.

The diplomat said the Saudis, facing their tightest budget crunch in years, had few options in raising money quickly.

"Their only alternative is more borrowing on international mar-

kets," the diplomat said. "The downside is that they'll be criticised domestically for paying interest."

The payment of interest is forbidden under Islam and has been criticised by Muslim conservatives in the kingdom. Saudi officials said they did not expect further international borrowing in the near future.

"There are no specific plans at the moment for any new borrowing on international markets," said Hamad Al Sayari, governor of the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency, the kingdom's central bank.

One knowledgeable source, who asked not to be identified, said Finance Minister Mohammad Abal Khalil "has orders from the king not to borrow" any more money on international markets.

The source cited jitters among members of the royal family who worry about an Islamic backlash. Abal Khalil could not be reached for comment.

The kingdom earlier this year borrowed \$3.6 billion on international markets.

Saudi Arabia's war costs, estimated to total at least \$50 billion, contributed to a budget deficit of \$15 billion last year.

The deficit is expected to at least double this year, analysts

said. "The burden is huge, and it would be a challenge for any country," Al Sayari said in an interview. "It's not easy to commit and spend such a large amount of money."

"Some people spoke of a windfall" because of increased Saudi oil revenues, "but the extra burden far outweighs the extra revenues," he said.

The Saudis may be forced to make unpopular decisions to cut spending in agricultural services and paring down social welfare, which provides free education and other services for Saudi Arabia's nine million citizens, and introduce income tax, the sources said.

But a recent attempt by the king to cut back on millions of dollars in wheat subsidies failed because of domestic pressure.

Simple decisions, such as a recent increase in the price of bottled gas used in homes, had to be made "very high in the political process," said one source.

Saudi officials and Western observers said the king was highly unlikely to introduce an incomes tax because of potential opposition.

The government has been borrowing domestically for three years. But it cannot raise enough

to cover the deficit because interest rates on government bonds are too low, analysts said.

In the long run, however, the outlook for Saudi Arabia is rosy. "Any country sometimes experiences a cash-flow problem. But this country is still strong and sits on a quarter of the world's oil reserves," said Abdullah Dabbagh, secretary-general of the Council of Saudi Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

He said he's an advocate of borrowing on international markets, "just so that we get used to the idea. Look at the United States, it's the biggest economy in the world and it has a big debt."

The war did little damage to the kingdom's oil-production facilities, and left it even more dominant in world petroleum markets than it was before the crisis.

Saudi Arabia raised its oil output from around 5.5 million barrels a day to more than eight million barrels to make up for the shortfall in Iraqi and Kuwaiti production.

Al Sayari said business confidence was on the upswing, citing increased activity in trade, construction and banking.

"There are clear, strong indications of confidence building up," he stressed.

Credit, High Street sales, mirror British recession

LONDON (R) — High interest rates and recession have reduced British consumers' desire to borrow to the lowest level since current records began six years ago, official figures have showed.

Consumer credit in the economy rose in the first three months of 1991 by only £280 million (\$340 million), the government's Central Statistical Office reported.

That compared with £911 million (\$1.6 billion) in the first quarter of 1990.

Other figures showed a drop of 0.6 per cent in store sales in the January-March period compared with the first three months of last year.

The credit and retail sales figures added to pressure on Prime Minister John Major's Conservative government to make a new cut in interest rates to boost the sagging economy in the run-up to a general election.

The Confederation of British Industry (CBI) said Monday that a survey it conducted of small firms found that "business is bumping along the bottom and recovery may be some way off."

The government, which must seek a new mandate from voters by mid-1992 and is beset by rising unemployment, has already reduced base lending rates to 12 per cent from the 15 per cent to which they were raised in 1989 to halt an inflationary boom.

Financial analysts predict that April figures for the retail price index which are due Friday will show a continuing decline in inflation that might trigger a new interest rate cut.

Inflation was at 8.2 per cent in March — down from nearly 11 per cent last September and October — and financial analysts say a drop to around six per cent is possible in April.

Huge American life insurance company files for bankruptcy

LOS ANGELES (R) — First Executive Corp. has sought bankruptcy protection, climaxing the largest life insurance failure in the nation's history.

Facing billions of dollars in junk bond losses, First Executive filed for chapter 11 reorganisation Monday in U.S. bankruptcy court in Los Angeles, the company said in a brief statement.

California regulators last month seized the holding company's largest insurance unit, Executive Life, in what constituted the nation's worst insurance failure.

Executive Life Insurance Co. of New York, First Executive's other major unit, also was taken over by state regulators last

month.

The parent company's longtime chairman and chief executive officer, Fred Carr, was removed as top officer of the California and New York units.

Any plan to reorganise the companies under new ownership poses the likelihood that hundreds of millions of dollars owed to policyholders, holders of annuities and other securities won't be paid.

On April 22, California Insurance Commissioner John Garamendi obtained an order in superior court that permitted Executive Life, under conservatorship, to continue payment of death claims, some medical

claims and about 70 per cent of certain periodic payments.

No payments were being made on 307 pension plans that used First Executive guaranteed investment contracts, which technically weren't insured.

Monday's bankruptcy filing further clouds the picture for policyholders.

Executive Life's troubles resulted from the decision by its parent company to invest heavily in high-risk, high-yield junk bonds.

The companies prospered with the market for the bonds in the 1980s, but crashed and lost billions of dollars when the market collapsed and defaults on junk bond payments became common.

Soviet Union seeks European energy and transport links

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet Prime Minister Valentin Pavlov said in an interview that the Kremlin was studying plans to link its energy and transport systems to a single European network.

Pavlov told the independent Interfax News Agency that the ambitious long-term projects might become part of a programme of Western aid for the Soviet economy equivalent to Europe's post-World War II Marshall plan.

But it was not clear how far advanced the plans were or if Western nations had been consulted. Many foreign investors have steered clear of the Soviet Union because of mounting political and economic chaos and uncertainty over prospects for reform.

"What we need is a long-term programme for the attraction of foreign investment," Pavlov told Interfax. "We are working now on programmes which could become sort of a Marshall plan for the Soviet Union."

Soviet officials have previously raised the possibility of creating a plan resembling the U.S. Marshall plan which sped Western Europe's post-war recovery.

But the investment climate in the country has soured in recent months as President Mikhail Gorbachev has abandoned a radical plan to introduce a market economy and engaged in a power struggle with autonomy-seeking republics.

Pavlov, who recently presented an anti-crisis programme to the Soviet parliament to bring the country's economy out of a tailspin, said a bill on foreign investment had also been submitted to the legislature.

He said it contained no less than 12 bilateral agreements on investment protection, but did not know when it would be passed.

The separate energy and transport programme envisaged the creation of a European power grid, including the Soviet Union. Pavlov said it would require considerable European investment.

"This large-scale programme will require a modernisation of the power and oil-processing industries, a detailed plan for utilising gas, and so on," he noted. "Under this programme, a single transportation system would have to be created. In

short, there would be a number of specific sub-programmes of development closely linked to the Western economy," he said.

The Soviet Union has the world's largest reserves of oil and natural gas, but because of its poor infrastructure it is unable to capitalise on its wealth.

The prime minister, a conservative-minded economist, said the problem of inconvertibility of the rouble would be studied "to meet the interests of our investors." But he gave no details.

Pavlov, who earlier this year accused Western banks and companies of involvement in a plot to undermine the Soviet economy, said the doors would soon be opened to increased foreign investment.

"We are going to create a most favourable climate for investment," he said, adding that preparatory work on tax reforms would be completed by July.

Pavlov acknowledged that the country's oil output, for years its principal hard currency earner, would fall millions of tonnes short of target and that fuel shortages could affect the country's harvest.

"It is already clear that we will not be able to extract the planned amount of oil. I am not talking about one or two per cent. We will be lacking millions of tonnes," he said.

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Tear gas, fighting mar South Korean student's funeral rites

SEOUL (Agencies) — South Korean riot police fired a massive tear gas barrage Tuesday to halt more than 50,000 mourners defying an official ban to march towards the heart of the capital bearing the body of a slain student.

Black-painted armoured gas trucks spewed skin-burning fog from behind hundreds of steel road barriers, driving back the determined marchers who included the parents of student Kang Kyung-Dae, battered to death by riot police on April 26.

Riot troopers came under a hail of petrol bombs and had to engage in hand-to-hand fighting with students and workers wielding pipes and wooden staves. Three armoured gas-firing trucks were set on fire with petrol bombs. First reports said there were no serious injuries.

"Citizens, help me fight for revenge," cried Kang's mother, Lee Dok-Sun, tears streaming down her face.

"Let my son go peacefully and happily," she shouted through a loudspeaker.

By mid-evening it became clear that police had not totally succeeded in barring demonstrators from downtown Seoul.

A crowd of around 2,000 students and workers battled police outside the Bank of Korea. Police fired a near continuous barrage of tear gas, but the protesters responded with hundreds of petrol bombs and broken paving stones.

The street funeral rites for Kang brought worsening traffic chaos to a wide area of western Seoul as the day went on.

Red-faced government officials preparing to welcome Turkish Prime Minister Yildirim Akbulut

had to switch his hotel at the last minute because of the risk that the city centre hotel first reserved would be invaded by tear gas.

Kang's death at the hands of five policemen from whom he was fleeing during a routine campus demonstration triggered a wave of angry protests against President Roh Tae-Woo's government which has gone on almost unbroken for nearly three weeks.

Roh quickly expressed deep regret for the killing, sacked his home affairs minister and ordered Kang's assailants to be tried for homicide.

But he failed to calm the growing anger. Radical students, workers and dissidents have demanded the resignation of both Roh and his government, and the disbanding of the feared plainclothes riot control corps whose members killed Kang.

After Tuesday's street funeral was announced, jumpy authorities mobilised 22,000 riot police to stop the march from degenerating into mass anti-government protests.

While approving organisers' plans to march through the streets, police gave a warning that they would not allow the cortege to approach the city centre.

Meanwhile newspapers said Tuesday, President Roh Tae-Woo may reshuffle his cabinet and release between 100 and 200 political prisoners next week in an effort to defuse his most serious political crisis.

Several major newspapers in Seoul, quoting a high government official, reported that Roh may take the action around Buddha's birthday next Tuesday. A special amnesty is usually granted on such major national holidays.



Winnie Mandela

Mandela gets 6 years for kidnap, assault

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Winnie Mandela Tuesday was sentenced to six years imprisonment for her part in the kidnapping and assault of four black youths.

Judge M.S. Stegmann told Mandela he was jailing her for five years for kidnap and one year for being an accessory to the assaults on the youths two years ago at her Soweto home.

Mandela, 56, stood impassively in the dock as she was sentenced. Her 72-year-old husband, anti-apartheid leader Nelson Mandela, was 1,500 kilometres away addressing a students' meeting in the Cape province town of Stellenbosch.

Her lawyer George Bizos lodged an immediate appeal and Mandela was released on 200 rand (\$80) bail.

Mandela's co-accused, housekeeper Xoliswa Falati, was also jailed for six years — four years for kidnap and two years for assault.

Her driver, John Morgan, was given a one-year jail sentence suspended for five years for his part in the kidnapping.

Stegmann told the court there was no indication any of the accused felt the slightest remorse.

"Punishment must be of an order that it must satisfy the community's feeling of justice," he said.

He said Mandela had misused her weight and influence as a community leader.

"You misunderstood or ignored the responsibilities which come to you as a leader," he told her.

Mandela and the others were convicted in the Rand Supreme Court Monday of abducting four anti-apartheid activists from a Soweto church hostel and taking them to rooms in Mandela's house where they were brutally beaten, kicked and whipped.

One youth, 14-year-old Stompie Seipei, died and Mandela's chief bodyguard, Jerry Richardson, was sentenced last year to hang for his murder.

Stegmann accused Falati of being the driving spirit in the offences and added: "How you, as a mother, could administer such beatings to the children of other mothers is almost beyond comprehension."

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PHOENIX, Arizona (R) — A Cessna 207 sight-seeing airplane crashed near the Grand Canyon Monday, killing six Swiss and German tourists and the pilot.

A helicopter located the burning wreckage 19 kilometres south of Grand Canyon village on the natural wonder's south rim, according to a Coconino County Sheriff's Office spokesman.

The burning plane, operated by air Grand Canyon, started a fire in a heavily-wooded pine forest where it went down, 13 kilometres from Tusayan Airport, sheriff deputies said.

The helicopter located the crash site because of a smoke plume. There were no survivors, officials said.

Grand Canyon sightseeing planes have crashed before.

On Sept. 27, 1989, a Grand Canyon Airlines twin other sight-seeing plane with 21 people on board crashed on landing at the airport, which is one kilometre south of the Canyon. Ten people were killed.

Another plane, carrying two tourists and a pilot crashed-landed in the Grand Canyon itself on Oct. 10, 1989, injuring all three. The plane was operated by Lake Powell Air.

38 killed in Japan tourist train collision

TOKYO (R) — Two trains smashed head-on near Japan's ancient capital Kyoto Tuesday killing 38 passengers and injuring more than 400 in the country's worst train accident for decades, officials said.

No foreigners were among the dead named so far.

The first car of a three-coach train with 600 tourists aboard south-bound from Kyoto to the scenic pottery town of Shigaraki jack-knifed and was squashed on impact.

Railway officials said it collided with a regular four-coach train carrying about 100 passengers where the single-track railway curved.

"I heard the emergency brakes and then the floor rose up, the seats crumpled up and we passengers were toppled like Shogi pieces (dominoes)," a passenger told National Television NHK.

"There was smoke and oil spilling from the ceiling and somebody shouted 'let's get out.' It was awful."

Police said the accident followed a signal system malfunction. The trains were run by different companies.

Most of the dead were on the packed tourist train. Railway officials said 600 passengers were nearly two and a half times normal capacity. Japanese trains do not have legal capacity limits.

It was Japan's worst train accident since 1963 when a Tokyo commuter train collided with a freight train killing 161 passengers, Transport Ministry official said.

The passengers, mostly middle-aged or elderly, were on a visit to Shigaraki, known for its centuries-old kilns and earthenware. The town is currently hosting a month-long International Pottery Festival.

Rescue workers and nurses scrambled to the overturned coaches near a wooded area along the track and a highway. The government sent six Transport Ministry inspectors to investigate the cause of the accident.

The three-coach train was run by the privatised West Japan Railway (JR West) on single track owned by the half-private, half-public Shigaraki Kogen Railway Company.

Shigaraki Kogen official were using flags on the day of the accident of electric signals.

The trains of JR West, which took over from Japanese National Railways in central Japan, were not equipped with radios like the Shigaraki Kogen drivers and may have missed flags warning them of approaching trains, police said.

Shigaraki Kogen drivers use radios to warn each other as they near a sidetrack in the middle of the 16-kilometre track that allows them to safely pass each other.

JR West's special seasonal service, which had started runs to Shigaraki on April 26 until the end of May, was the first to run trains on the Shigaraki track since 1987.

New Yugoslav crisis looms over election of president

BELGRADE (R) — Yugoslavia's collective state presidency Tuesday appeared heading for deadlock over the election of its new leader, threatening the country with an even deeper constitutional crisis.

Stipe Mesić, a Croat, is supposed to take over as first among equals from Borisav Jovic, a Serb, whose one-year term expires Wednesday.

But Yugoslav political analysts said the presidency, which represents representatives of the six republics and two autonomous provinces, had only five fully elected members and several delegates were expected to vote against Mesić.

Last week delegates from Vojvodina and Kosovo provinces and from the Republic of Montenegro failed to gain approval in the federal parliament for their bid to occupy the posts in the presidency.

Their stand-in representatives say they have full rights to vote in the meantime, but this is disputed by many legal experts because the authors of the constitution did not foresee such a situation.

In any case, election of the titular head of state must be unanimous and representatives of the three regions and of Serbia, Croatia's arch-rival, were expected to vote against Mesić, a presidency official said.

"If they did otherwise they would certainly lose the support of their constituencies," he said.

Croatia and Slovenia have taken steps to secede unless Yugoslavia is transformed into a loose alliance of sovereign states.

Serbia and Montenegro advocate a centrally-ruled federation.

If Mesić is not elected it will create an unprecedented situation and will paralyse the presidency, the country's highest constitutional body, which has prerogatives of head of state and of commander-in-chief of the army.

"The only way to prevent my taking office is to shoot at my car while I am in it," Mesić told Reuters in an interview Monday.

But he told a news conference in the Croatian capital, Zagreb, Tuesday that Croatia would immediately secede if he were rejected by the presidency.

"If I'm not elected tomorrow it would create a constitutional crisis in which unconstitutional solutions should be applied," he said.

"In that case Croatia would act in one and the only way — it would secede from Yugoslavia."

Yugoslavia has been sliding into crisis since the death of its Communist leader Josip Broz Tito in 1980. Old ethnic feuds intensified after all republics elected nationalist leaders in free elections last year.

Michael Caine has another brother

LONDON (AP) — Actor Michael Caine has another brother, whose existence was concealed from his parents for more than half a century, according to newspaper reports. The people, a Sunday tabloid, and the Daily Mirror published copies of a birth registration for a boy born to Caine's mother on July 11, 1925.

Caine examined the birth registration and other documents, and confirmed that the man, named David, was his brother, the Daily Mirror reported. "What's really amazed me is that she managed to visit him all those years without anybody knowing," the Daily Mirror quoted Caine as saying.

Ellen Mickelwhite, died in 1988. Caine said Monday that he was taking care of his brother's financial needs. "I've made arrangements for my half-brother to be taken care of for the rest of his life," Caine said in a statement released by a spokesman in Los Angeles, where the actor is working on his next film, Noises Off.

The brother was put in foster care shortly after he was born. When he had an epileptic seizure, he was placed in a school, the people reported, and at age 17, he was committed to Cane Hill Mental Hospital in Coulsdon, south London. Since his mother's death, David has been moved to a nursing home, the people reported. The Daily Mirror quoted Caine as saying he remembers his mother saying she was going to visit a cousin at Cane Hill. "She told me it was a woman cousin who was mentally ill that she had to go and see," Caine was quoted as saying. "That must have been my brother."

5,000 bibles to go on sale in Cuba

HAVANA (R) — Five thousand Bibles are to go on public sale in Cuba bookshops in further sign of increasing tolerance by Cuba's Communist authorities towards religious teaching and worship.

The Cuban News Agency, Prensa Latina, said the Bibles were handed over by Cuba's Ecumenical Council to the National Book Institute, a state organisation responsible for the distribution of books on the island. Printed in Spanish, the Bibles were a donation from the United Bible Societies, Prensa Latina said. Bibles and religious literature had not been openly sold in Cuba's state bookshops for three decades, a result of the hostility that characterised church-state relations following the 1959 revolution which ended a right-wing dictatorship and eventually introduced communism to the island. Protestant and Evangelical Churches in Cuba grouped in the Ecumenical Council, which does not include the Catholic Church, the island's biggest, have recently enjoyed increasing access to Cuba's state-run media as part of improving relations with the Communists' government.

Noise bombs save dolphins from killer whales

SYDNEY (R) — Australian wildlife officers used "noise bombs" to scare off a group of killer whales who were feeding on a school of 1,000 dolphins that had trapped in a remote Tasmanian bay, a wildlife officer said.

"The sea was boiling (the dolphins) were so agitated," said Roger Aldridge, who sailed his yacht into the bay during the hunt. About 1,000 dolphins entered Adventure Bay on Bruny Island, off the southern coast of the island state of Tasmania on Saturday afternoon, said local wildlife officer Pat Bortignon by telephone. "The dolphins were chasing a school of mackerel and the whales herded them into the bay and then just kept patrolling up and down the mouth of the bay, picking off the stragglers," he said.

Local resident Leigh Higgins said whenever the dolphins tried to leave the bay the nine-metre (30-foot) whales would move in closer and drive them away. "The school would go mad, hurting out of the water and a couple of times the whales would leap out, far enough to see their white undersides. The water was just foaming," Higgins said.

Bortignon said a few hundred of the dolphins managed to escape but by late afternoon several hundred remained trapped. "Our major concern was that we'd have a mass stranding so we decided to use noise bombs. They don't hurt the animals, just frighten them away," Bortignon said.

Officers dropped noise bombs among the dolphins to force them out of the bay once the whales had been scared off.

China, Vietnam could be drawn into Cambodian war — Thai minister

PEKING (R) — Thai Foreign Minister Arsa Sarasin warned Tuesday that a breakdown of the first ceasefire in Cambodia in more than a decade could bring China and Vietnam back fully into the war.

The ceasefire appeared to be holding, he told reporters after a lengthy meeting with China's foreign Minister Qian Qichen.

But he said renewed fighting could eventually mean a showdown between forces of Phnom Penh government leader Hun Sen and the most powerful of three guerrilla groups, the Khmer Rouge.

"The Vietnamese would come in full support of Hun Sen and China could be forced to come to the assistance of the other three factions," he said.

"Hence the conflict would go on indefinitely."

China and Vietnam have been at odds over Cambodia since Hanoi's troops marched into Phnom Penh in early 1979 and toppled the Peking-backed Khmer Rouge from power.

China has been the main supplier of weapons to the Khmer Rouge while Vietnam the Phnom Penh government.

U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar called for a ceasefire in the hope of creating a less acrimonious atmosphere for peace talks expected to be held in Jakarta next month.

The Khmer Rouge and two other guerrilla groups fighting Phnom Penh have agreed to observe the ceasefire until the talks.

Arsa said his government wanted all four warring Cambodian factions, including Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the nominal leader of the coalition, to attend the Jakarta talks.

He said he had urged China to hold more talks with rival Vietnam to help end the Cambodian war, and Peking was willing to consider such a move.

"We are urging China to play a positive role and talk to Vietnam," he said.

"They will consider this. They realise it's very important."

Meanwhile a United Nations military mission arrived in Phnom Penh Tuesday to observe a ceasefire from the Cambodian government side after guerrilla armies pledged to keep to the truce.

The Cambodian News Agency (SPK) said the three-man team would tour areas of western and southern Cambodia's where heavy fighting was reported in the weeks before the voluntary ceasefire began on May 1.

The head of the U.N. team, Major General Timothy Dithams of Ghana, said after visiting guerrilla camps on the Thai-Cambodian border Sunday and Monday that all three guerrilla factions had agreed to extend the truce until the Jakarta talks.

In Cambodia, the team will visit the Western Garrison towns of Sisophon and Battambang, which came under Khmer Rouge artillery barrage in March, and Siem Reap and Banteay Meanchey, where the guerrillas are seeking support among the peasantry.

It will also travel to the southern coastal province of Kampot, whose port, Cambodia's largest, has been the target of repeated Khmer Rouge attacks.

The team was expected to meet Interior Minister General Sin Song, Foreign Minister Hor Namhong and Defence Minister General Tie Banh, SPK said.

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"And now for the only news that will coincide with Vremya's weather report," said newspaper Svetlana Sorokina, concluding the bulletin with a grin.

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Launch of Russian TV ends Soviet monopoly

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet government's television monopoly came to an end with the launch of a small rival channel by Boris Yeltsin's Russian Federation.

Russian television will broadcast three times a day for a total of six hours on the central system's second channel.

Staffed largely by radicals, many of them sacked from the main Soviet Broadcasting Corporation, it has pledged to provide an alternative view.

"I promise that Russian Television will tell the truth about events," Chairman Oleg Poptsov told a launch party in Moscow Sunday night.

The new company is funded by the Republican government of the giant Russian Federation of which Yeltsin, the main political rival of Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev, is president.

Russian Television's output will centre around its news programme Vesti, all five of whose principal presenters were sacked from the state corporation.

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Launch of Russian TV ends Soviet monopoly

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet government's television monopoly came to an end with the launch of a small rival channel by Boris Yeltsin's Russian Federation.

Russian television will broadcast three times a day for a total of six hours on the central system's second channel.

Staffed largely by radicals, many of them sacked from the main Soviet Broadcasting Corporation, it has pledged to provide an alternative view.

"I promise that Russian Television will tell the truth about events," Chairman Oleg Poptsov told a launch party in Moscow Sunday night.

The new company is funded by the Republican government of the giant Russian Federation of which Yeltsin, the main political rival of Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev, is president.

Russian Television's output will centre around its news programme Vesti, all five of whose principal presenters were sacked from the state corporation.

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7 die in plane crash near Grand Canyon

PHOENIX, Arizona (R) — A Cessna 207 sight-seeing airplane crashed near the Grand Canyon Monday, killing six Swiss and German tourists and the pilot.

A helicopter located the burning wreckage 19 kilometres south of Grand Canyon village on the natural wonder's south rim, according to a Coconino County Sheriff's Office spokesman.

The burning plane, operated by air Grand Canyon, started a fire in a heavily-wooded pine forest where it went down, 13 kilometres from Tusayan Airport, sheriff deputies said.

The helicopter located the crash site because of a smoke plume. There were no survivors, officials said.

Grand Canyon sightseeing planes have crashed before.

On Sept. 27, 1989, a Grand Canyon Airlines twin other sight-seeing plane with 21 people on board crashed on landing at the airport, which is one kilometre south of the Canyon. Ten people were killed.

Another plane, carrying two tourists and a pilot crashed-landed in the Grand Canyon itself on Oct. 10, 1989, injuring all three. The plane was operated by Lake Powell Air.

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